

15th District Council Public Meeting Minutes

(Minutes-Aligned Version)

Date: January 8, 2026

Time: 5:51 PM – 7:32 PM

Location: Rutues Center for Business & People Development

Format: In-person with Zoom supplement

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at **5:51 PM**
- Roll call conducted
- **Quorum established** (three councilors present)
- Prayer / moment of silence held in recognition of recent community events

2. Approval of Remote Attendance

- Zoom use acknowledged
- No objections raised
- **Remote/Zoom format approved by consensus**

3. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda reviewed by Council
- Motion made and seconded
- **Agenda approved as presented**

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4. Approval of Past Minutes

- Review of **December 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- Topics noted:
 - Youth truancy and parental accountability
 - Police limitations on truancy enforcement
 - Senior services and alley maintenance
 - Handicap parking ticketing confusion
 - Cultural integration and new arrivals
- Minutes from **11/13/25** and **12/4/25 (special)** also referenced
- **All prior minutes approved**

5. Public Comment

Key Issues Raised:

- District crime statistics (Nov–Dec 2025)
- Police-community engagement, especially with youth
- Traffic safety concerns on Madison Street
- Pedestrian safety and enforcement gaps
- Gun violence and retaliatory shootings
- Loss of community “gatekeepers”
- Seniors’ involvement and intergenerational programming
- Parental responsibility and community standards
- Faith-based and values-centered community leadership

6. Public Discussion on Trends & Concerns

- Emphasis on:
 - Community-based safety approaches
 - Youth engagement and prevention
 - Intergenerational mentorship
 - Restorative justice and mediation

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- Input from youth and community members recorded

7. Reports from Councilors

- **Dr. Deondre Rutues**
 - Community-police liaison updates
 - “15 Unified” monthly newsletter
 - Know Your Rights trainings (upcoming traffic focus)
 - Introduction of **Reach** mass-text communication tool
- **Chair Carmelita Earls**
 - Commission vacancy announcements
 - Community Justice Alliance mediation initiative
 - Senior engagement strategy
 - Upcoming community events and forums
- Other councilor updates as applicable

8. Update from the Commission

- No formal report
- Noted ongoing special commission meeting regarding CPD/ICE cooperation

9. Report from the Police District

- Discussion of police attendance and engagement
- Upcoming meeting with District Commander scheduled for **January 13, 2026**

10. Hearings & Discussions

- Violence prevention initiatives
- Collaboration with **Black Men United**

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- Community-based intervention strategies

11. Presentations

- **Black Men United** presentation on:
 - Violence interruption
 - Youth safe spaces
 - Senior support services
- Community engagement strategies shared

12. Awards & Recognition

- **Above and Beyond / Living Legacy Award**
 - Posthumous recognition of **Officer Clifton Lewis**
 - Certificate presented
 - Plan discussed for future permanent recognition

13. Final Actions

- Motion passed to **revisit bylaws** to allow flexible/organic agendas
- Action items adopted:
 - Pedestrian safety resolution
 - Senior engagement integration
 - Mediation training with COPA
 - Improved police engagement
 - Expanded partnerships
 - Mass communication rollout

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14. Final Announcements

- Next Regular Meeting:
 - **February 12, 2026**
 - Target location: **Austin Town Hall**
 - Time: **5:30 PM**
- Reminder of upcoming community events

15. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made and seconded
- Meeting adjourned at **7:32 PM**
- Food made available to attendees