

17TH DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

District Council 017 Public Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting Type:** Regular
- **Date:** January 10, 2026
- **Planned Start Time:** 1:00 PM
- **Location:** Independence CPL Branch, 4022 N Elston Ave, 60618
- **Zoom link:** <https://bit.ly/DC17zoom>

I. **Call to Order, Roll Call**

Under Illinois law, the District Council can only conduct official public business if the Council establishes a physically present quorum of two Councilors.

Start time: 1:09 PM

Roll call:

Councilor Name	Role	Present
Luis Bermudez	Chair	Yes
Elizabeth Rochford	Nominating Committee Member	Yes
Anthony Tamez	Community Engagement Coordinator	Yes

Quorum achieved: Yes

II. **Approval of Remote Attendance of Councilor – N/A**

According to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA; 5 ILCS 120/7(a)), the two Councilors physically present at the meeting may vote to approve remote attendance of the third Councilor if one of the following exemptions listed below has prevented the third Councilor's physical attendance:

- (i) personal illness/disability
- (ii) employment purposes/business of the public body
- (iii) family/other emergency
- (iv) unexpected childcare obligations
- (v) performance of active military service as a service member

III. **Approval of Agenda**

The Council may vote to approve the agenda. The Council may add or remove items. The Council cannot add new items to vote on. Even after deciding on the agenda, the Council may decide to add more items later on.

Vote:

Councilor Name	Vote
Luis Bermudez	Yes
Elizabeth Rochford	Yes

Outcome: Approved

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IV. Approvals of Past Minutes

The Council will vote on past meeting minutes.

1. Approval of **November 8, 2026 regular** meeting minutes

Vote:

Councilor Name	Vote
Luis Bermudez	Yes
Elizabeth Rochford	Yes

Outcome: Approved

2. Approval of **December 10, 2026 regular** meeting minutes

Vote:

Councilor Name	Vote
Luis Bermudez	Yes
Elizabeth Rochford	Yes

Outcome: Approved

V. Public Comment

The Council will listen to comments from attendees. Each comment is limited to 2 minutes. Anyone interested in giving public comment should write their name on a card provided at the meeting and give it to the members of the Council or staff in the meeting room any time within 30 minutes of the start of the meeting. The public comment session is limited to 20 minutes. If the number of interested speakers exceeds the time dedicated to public comment, speakers will be selected by a random drawing. Anyone may submit a written comment by delivering it at the meeting or by emailing dc017publiccomment@gmail.com.

Notes:

- Grace: concerns about ICE and their return
 - 2,000 reported agents in Minneapolis
 - Calling on District Councilors to get creative and curious on how to plug aid in supporting
 - How many police officers have been tear gassed as a result of ICE activity?
 - What kind of language has gone out to officers in District 017?
 - More specific policy outline from CCPSA for how CPD should be engaging when ICE is active
- Paddy: Echoing Grace's concerns; has requests for following:
 - Communications memos/records on how District 017 is being advised to engage with ICE
 - Details from CCPSA on what CPD guidance is for engagements with ICE
 - What does CCPSA plan to do?

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- Gompers Park POD set up in Eugene Field
 - CPD reported that it was owned by the Park District
 - May be evidence to the contrary
- Pete: Attended a public safety meeting hosted by alder Jim Gardner, included several police officer, including Commander;
 - Majority of attendees held concerns about CPD engagement with ICE;
 - Reported that many CPD officials, as well as Gardner, deflected and dismissed community concerns;
 - Named attendance is a problem for CAPS' Beat meetings
 - Including by Commander
- Mark: Wants to see acknowledgement within CPD policy that defines and declares these harmful acts by ICE as torture.
- Peter: has evidence that COO of Gompers Park did coordinate with CPD regarding the setup of the camera POD
 - 4 people abducted from the encampment the day after the camera POD was installed
 - On morning of the March 5 Accelerated Moving Event, 17th District officers arrived at 4:30 AM to inform encampment residents that they were being "swept" in what felt like a show of excessive force
- Janet: was confused how the petition for a special hearing with CCPSA turned into the January 8 special event
 - Does CCPSA and District Councils have the authority to hold CPD accountable if support of ICE is proven founded
- Denali: wanted to uplift documented public health and community health consequences for abusive behaviors of ICE agents

VI. Presentations

If the Council has arranged for a presentation from an outside organization, the Council will recognize the outside speaker to present to the community.

1. Mark Clements – Chicago Torture Justice Center

Notes:

- Shared his experience of getting arrested and tortured by CPD at the age of 16 and subsequent 28-year sentence
- Received no support as a returning citizen
- Spoke to culture of dismissing mental health issues and trauma of his experience, need for healing at a community level
- Reported on the organizing efforts to pass the Reparations Ordinance

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2. April Tondelli – Von Steuben High School History teacher

Notes:

- Has been teaching the curriculum on Jon Burge’s torture program within CPD for the past 10 years
- Survivor testimonials always prove to be the most powerful component of the curriculum for students
- Essential questions guide the unit and provide an institutional framework to approach the content
- Highlights the work of activists in fighting for the reparations over years
- Draws connections for students to remaining obstacles regarding police reform, such as rejected recommendations for the Consent Decree

VII. Public Discussion on Trends and Concerns in the District

The Council will facilitate a discussion with the room on the most prevalent trends and concerns in the district, share their own observations from community engagement, and record a summary for the minutes.

Trend/concern: CPD engagement with ICE
Notes from discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See public comment
Trend/concern: CPD harassment of unhoused neighbors
Notes from discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are given very little information regarding citations or needs to relocate • Repeated narrative from Public Comment about the AME plan (calm, connecting to resources) and how officers escalated and created chaos • Officers using comments shared at DSP conversations to threaten
Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources for filing a COPA complaint were offered – reminders issued that complaints need to be filed in order to trigger investigations and accountability measures • Call for OIG investigation into placement of the camera POD at Gompers Park
Trend/concern: District Strategic Plans (DSP) conversations
Notes from discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very little community participation • Lacking information on the specialized needs of following populations: houseless, LGBTQ+, undocumented
Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSP outreach teams can collaborate with Kedzie Center and other service providers
Trend/concern: Youth curfew enforcement
Notes from discussion:

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased zones of risk for students who travel across the city for school or extracurricular activities• Consequences of being out past curfew are to Officer discretion
Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would like to see some acknowledgement of the risk youth face as a result

VIII. Reports from the Councilors

Each Councilor will provide an update. Councilors will discuss their updates with themselves and meeting attendees. The Council may or may not have time limits for these updates depending on what they previously agreed upon.

Chair: Luis Bermudez
Notes from discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has maintained meetings with the Commander – had to miss the meeting to attend a funeral• Is scheduling a meeting with Angelica Green (DC025) to discuss progress on Officer Wellness priority
Nominating Committee Member: Beth Rochford
Notes from discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applications for CCPSA vacancies open 1/7-2/6; those interested should visit CCPSA website• Restorative Justice Community Courts (RJCC) working group met the day before to strategize how to increase access to RJCCs and Peace Circles for youth• CAPS Domestic Violence (DV) subcommittee – Family Focus has initiated a fatherhood program• DSP working group hasn't met for the year yet – will be making recommendations to CPD for changes<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Plan to ask for evidence to support the claim in the root cause analysis that people being released from correctional facilities increase risk of violence in a community○ Wants District leadership to track the 311 requests for graffiti removal, light repairs, and other municipal concerns to share with DC quarterly○ Question about how traffic violations and shooting relate to each other○ Relationship between encampments and shootings since it falls under "Shootings" in the DSP<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime Clearance rates – no new updates• Community Mediation process for low-level complaints – will likely finalize who will be on the selection committee at next meeting
Community Engagement Coordinator: Anthony Tamez
Notes from discussion:

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- No updates to report as a result of recovering health

IX. Update from the Commission

The Council may provide and discuss updates received from the Commission. If the Council has not received updates from the Commission, the Council will announce it.

Notes:

- Petition submitted resulted in Special Hearing scheduled by CCPSA – they offered a Listening Session on 1/8/26
 - Will be following up in February to determine what they have the authority to do in regards to the General Order

X. Report from the Police District – N/A

The Council may call upon local District Command staff from the Chicago Police Department to provide updates from the last month. The Council may use this time to ask the District Command representative questions on behalf of the community.

XI. Hearings and Discussions – N/A

The Council will discuss any topics it decides to prioritize at the meeting.

1. Speaker & Event outreach to the community for suggestions

Notes:

- ICIRR/OCAD: re: KYR w/ICE
- Emergency trauma-informed care – physical/emotional manifestations of trauma
- De-escalation
- Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) via CDPH
- Autonomous Tenants Union (ATU)/Metropolitan Tenants Union (MTU)

2. Policy recommendations from the community – N/A

XII. Final Actions, Resolutions, Recommendations – N/A

The Council will discuss items for voting. This may include resolutions calling upon the Commission, the Chicago Police Department, City Council, the Mayor's Office, or others to take action on a matter. Councilors may also share individual recommendations that are not formal, final actions of the Council. Individual recommendations do not require votes, and they may or may not be listed ahead of time.

1. Vote to approve 2026 Goals - passed

XIII. Final Announcements and Adjournment

The Council will make final announcements, such as announcements about upcoming Council events and meetings, and then close the meeting.

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1. Next monthly meeting:
 - i. Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 PM
 - ii. Roosevelt High School – 3436 W Wilson, 60625
2. Adjourned at 3:09 PM