

17TH DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

District Council 017 Public Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting Type:** Regular
- **Date:** March 10, 2026
- **Planned Start Time:** 6:30 PM
- **Location:** Horner Park, 2741 W Montrose 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: 6:31 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	Aye
Elizabeth Rochford	Aye
Anthony Tamez	Aye

Outcome: Approved

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IV. Approvals of Past Minutes

The Council will vote on past meeting minutes.

1. The **January 10, 2026 regular** meeting minutes were approved
2. The **February 10, 2026 regular** meeting minutes were 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: referenced a recent CPD shooting in the 11th District, drawing parallels to “ICE-style” tactics and urging the council to elevate concerns about CPD–ICE collaboration to the CCPSA.
- Hannah Lynch: shared updates about the forthcoming CPD/COPA mediation program and encouraged community interest in the application process for the Community Mediator Selection Advisory Group. She emphasized the need for spaces where officers and residents can debrief incidents outside high-stress encounters.

VI. 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-ICE collaboration and transparency
Notes from discussion: • Continued worry about CPD actions that could facilitate federal immigration enforcement; • Community desires stronger policy, accountability, and clarity from CPD regarding the Mayor’s executive order on ICE-related reporting; • Multiple commenters asked for enforceable policy limiting CPD involvement in immigration enforcement, including: - o A CPD policy revision clarifying that officers may not participate in crowd control operations that aid ICE. - o Monthly public information sheets detailing internal

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CPD memos related to immigration and district commander rosters.
Trend/concern: Domestic Violence Response Concerns
Notes from discussion: • Councilor Rochford relayed a constituent's experience in which CPD responding to a DV call allegedly disclosed the identity of the caller to neighbors, resulting in retaliation; • Officers explained typical 911 response protocols and encouraged follow-up with district leadership for sensitive situations; • Residents asked for clarity on CPD protocol regarding caller confidentiality during domestic incidents; • Officers reiterated that caller anonymity is permitted but situationally complicated in small buildings
Trend/concern: Encampment sweep at Legion Park
Notes from discussion: • Community members expressed concern about a planned accelerated closure/cleaning of the Legion Park encampment—scheduled on Election Day—and the potential displacement of residents awaiting housing placement; • Concern that displacement could occur before housing placements are finalized (some requiring up to 90 days); • Additional uncertainty if a cleaning or a closure; • Community asked the council for visibility and updates

VII. 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: • Officer Wellness: no new updates; • Alternative Response: new to working group, still getting acclimated; • Community Policing: working group still in development phase; • Desire to keep District Council meetings as a space where all viewpoints can be heard, even if not agreed with; acknowledgment that these conversations are going to get harder before they get easier.
Community Engagement Coordinator: Anthony Tamez
Notes from discussion: • Announced that applications for a District Council Youth Council are open until April 10;

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• Youth must attend monthly meetings and bring perspectives on safety and accountability; • Orientation scheduled for May 9; • Food for youth participation was discussed as a barrier.
Nominating Committee Member: Beth Rochford
Notes from discussion: • Nominating Committee: 6 nominees voted on and advanced to Mayor's office: - o Angelique Guzman (North Side and youth representative) - o Hamza Jilani (South Side and youth representative) - o Darrion Johnson (South Side and youth representative) - o Rebecca Levin (North Side resident) - o Javier Vasquez (North Side and youth representative) - o Anjanette Young (South Side resident) • Restorative Justice working group: Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO) has changed their position in order to allow gun possession cases to go back to restorative justice courts; - o Will be visiting Englewood court on March 11; • Domestic Violence working group: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, working group will be conducting outreach at 3 schools on report card pick up day (March 18); • District Strategic Plan (DSP): waiting to hear back from CPD on recommended changes; have recommended all District Councils to request Quarter 1 updates for their April meetings; • Mayor issued an Executive Order granting CPD powers to investigate ICE and Border Patrol agents for criminal misconduct; CCSAO has put out a statement how they will follow said order; CPD has not yet released a plan, despite March 3 deadline; • CCPSA held listening session January 8 on CPD engagement with ICE; follow up meeting scheduled for April 2 but may be rescheduled due to religious observation.

VIII. 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 from discussion:

- Review of CCPSA priorities for 2026:
 - o Traffic Stops & Accountability (Anthony)
 - o Community-Based Public Safety – Alternative Response (Luis)
 - o Misconduct Investigations (Beth); community mediator program
 - o Solving Violent Crime – crime clearance rates (Anthony)
 - o Community Policing – push notifications for quality of life issues (Luis)
 - o Officer Wellness (Luis)

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- o Immigration and Accountability (Beth)
- CPD members connected to “bias-based groups” would be addressed by ordinance introduced by Alder Matt Martin;
 - o Frustration named about language of “bias-based” when what is actually the concern is officers involved with known hate groups
- Acknowledgement that CPD collaboration with ICE is being worked on via both City Council and CCPSA channels and encouragement to continue pursuing both courses since it is unknown which will result in greater gains first;
- Seeking clarity on why other Commissioners saw the above-mentioned ordinance introduction as a reason to drop it as a priority area;
 - o Clarity offered that Commission doesn’t have authority to change COPA ordinance, so it would have to go through City Council regardless;
- Next Commission meeting is **Thursday, March 26, 6:30 PM** at [George Washington High School](#) (3535 E 114th St, 60617)

IX. Report from the Police District

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.

1. Year-to-date crime trends data shared:
 - a. Homicides: 1 (vs. 0 this time last year)
 - b. Sexual assaults: +33%
 - c. Robberies: –42%
 - d. Aggravated batteries: +14%
 - e. Burglaries: unchanged
 - f. Theft: –27%
 - g. Motor vehicle theft: –12%
 - h. Total index crime: –50%
 - i. Commander noted many sexual assault reports involve vulnerable juveniles known to the offenders.

X. Hearings and Discussions

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

1. Speaker & Event outreach to the community for suggestions
 - a. Ideas from previous community brainstorm:
 - i. Independent Monitor Team (IMT)
 - ii. Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
 - iii. BOOM workshop on Trauma-informed discussions with youth

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- iv. Good Kids Mad City
 - v. CVI team from ALSO
 - vi. Deputy Director of Community Safety Initiatives
2. Policy recommendations from the community

XI. Presentations – N/A

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

XII. Final Actions, Resolutions, Recommendations

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. Recommend an April vote of censure of Lee Bielecki, District Councilor in District 022, due to behaviors as part of Nominating Committee process

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.

- 1. Next monthly meeting:
 - i. Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 PM
 - ii. Eugene Field Park – 5100 N Ridgeway Ave, 60625
- 2. Adjourned at 7:46 PM