

17TH DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

District Council 017 Public Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting Type:** Regular
- **Date:** April 14, 2026
- **Planned Start Time:** 6:30 PM
- **Location:** Eugene Field Park, 5100 N Ridgeway Ave, 60625
- **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: 6:40 PM

Roll call:

Councilor Name	Role	Present
Luis Bermudez	Chair	Yes
Elizabeth Rochford	Nominating Committee Member	Yes
Anthony Tamez	Community Engagement Coordinator	No

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:

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

Outcome: Approved

IV. Approvals of Past Minutes

The Council will vote on past meeting minutes.

1. The **March 7, 2026 Quarterly** meeting minutes were approved
2. The **March 10, 2026 regular** meeting minutes were approved

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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:

- Hannah Flint: announced that applications to serve as community-police mediators are live on the COPA website. Applicants are expected to have formal mediation training and experience; this program aims to provide an opt-in alternative resolution path for low-level complaints involving police and community members
- Bill: reported ongoing issues at his building (squatters, repeated assaults, and alleged unsafe asbestos removal without permits). He asked what steps to take next; councilors suggested speaking with the district commander after the meeting and noted the matter appears to involve housing code enforcement.

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: Auto theft & parts targeting
Notes from discussion: • Airbag thefts: Crews are active between ~2–6 a.m.; often armed and operating in teams. If you witness activity, don't confront—call 911 and provide as much detail as possible. • Catalytic converters: Rapid “pit-crew” thefts in under a minute; higher-clearance vehicles (e.g., Honda Element) and some models (e.g., Prius) are frequent targets due to accessibility • Deterrents & city support: Steering-wheel clubs and garage parking help; the district can provide “The Club” upon request at the front desk. The City/district partners with local auto shops (e.g., near Addison) to mark/etch converters and register IDs so stolen parts can be traced—raising penalties and improving recoveries. Watch district social media for event dates and DIY kits.

VII. 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.

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1. Quarterly Report on District Strategic Plan – focus areas & metrics (YTD vs last year):
 - a. Priorities: (1) Shooting violence, (2) Robberies, (3) Burglaries—each with specific geographic focus.
 - b. Progress:
 - i. Homicides: 1 (this year) vs 1 (last year) — flat.
 - ii. Shooting incidents: 2 vs 2 — flat; shots-fired calls down ~20% in the priority area.
 - iii. Robberies: down ~57%.
 - iv. Burglaries: down ~20%.
 - c. Clarification: The Violence Reduction Dashboard showed 6 non-fatal shooting victims this year vs 2 last year; officials noted the strategic-plan metric referenced incidents, not victims, and discussed how a single incident may involve multiple victims.
 - d. Operational approach:
 - i. Data & intel: SDSC analysts identify hotspots (shots fired, gang activity, theft patterns); the District Technology Officer scrapes social media for trends (e.g., airbag theft crews).
 - ii. Community & partners: Biweekly coordination with ALSO (violence intervention) on gang-related issues; systematic graffiti documentation to anticipate potential retaliations; deployment of tactical/priority response teams as staffing allows; collaboration with ATF and other units for long-term investigations.
 - iii. Flexibility: Plans pivot to emergent trends (e.g., reallocating resources to address airbag thefts citywide), while keeping original geographic priority boxes for year-over-year comparison and accountability.
 - e. Criminal Sexual Assault (CSA) & Domestic Violence context: Reported CSAs have increased (e.g., from ~6 to ~12), often due to late reporting (including incidents from decades earlier) and cases involving known parties; several victims request documentation only without police action. Officials emphasized prevention and outreach (schools, nightlife establishments) and cautioned that rising reports can reflect better reporting and trust, not solely increased occurrence.

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.

Nominating Committee Member: Beth Rochford
Notes from discussion: • Commission appointments: The mayor selected two candidates to fill CCPSA

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commissioner seats: Angelique Guzman (present at meeting) and Anjanette Young. A third seat remains unnamed. Confirmation will go through the City Council's Police & Fire Committee before a full Council vote; timing expected in May/June, though schedules can change.

- **Restorative Justice Community Courts (RJCC):** Cases (including gun possession) are returning to the RJCC docket at the Avondale court serving 18–26-year-olds with first-time, non-violent offenses; the working group will continue stakeholder outreach (e.g., judges).
- **CAPS Domestic Violence Subcommittee:** Planning a summer healing circle in partnership with Kedzie Center; highlighting Family Focus's new fatherhood program (first 8-week cohort of ~10 participants, with strong interest in repeating). Councilor Bermudez suggested inviting the program lead to present at a future meeting and connecting the program with ALSO for referrals.
- **District Strategic Plan working group:** Awaiting CPD leadership's meeting to review last year's recommendations; planning to brief the consent decree's independent monitor, given upcoming hearings on district strategic plans.
- **ICE/Welcoming City Ordinance:** District councils and the Commission are tracking policy guidance regarding CPD interactions when ICE is present. The Commission requested the City's Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety audit CPD's compliance with the Welcoming City Ordinance; next steps include the IG outlining the audit plan. Councilors are exploring a subject-matter-expert panel/town hall to clarify training, policy, and accountability questions raised with CPD leadership

Chair: Luis Bermudez

Notes from discussion:

- **Alternative response & CARE model:** Councilor Bermudez is working on **CARES** (mental-health crisis response) expansion: currently only 2 vans citywide, 4 assigned specific districts with 9–5 availability; the push is to fund/locate a unit in the district and extend hours to match need. A petition seeking ~150 signatures is underway, with support signaled by the district commander. Councilor emphasized CIT-trained officers' effective de-escalation and the importance of pairing mental-health teams with police for safety.

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 from discussion:

- **Crime clearance & victim services:** CPD's Area 5 detectives presented on investigative processes and how residents can help; the Commission's April 30 regular meeting will feature a special discussion on victim services (framed as part of improving clearance rates).

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- **Community-police mediation pilot:** Mediators will be contracted (part-time), with required 40 hours of mediation training plus ~200 hours of prior mediation experience; a 3-day specialization will prepare them for community-police cases. Training is targeted for May, with interest in recruiting community-based practitioners (and exploring philanthropic support to expand the training pipeline).
- **Extremist-group investigations:** City Council's Workforce Allocation Committee advanced an ordinance change enabling the Civilian Oversight Commission to investigate officers suspected of extremist-group involvement; a full Council vote is anticipated next month.
- Next Commission meeting is **Thursday, April 30, 6:30 PM** at [DePaul College Prep](#) (3333 N Rockwell St, 60618) with a focus on victim services

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. Councilor Bermudez suggested Family Focus to present on Fatherhood program (as mentioned above)
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 – 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.

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. Saturday, May 9, 1:00 PM
 - ii. Independence Branch – 4024 N Elston Ave, 60618
2. **Adjourned** at 7:47 PM