

17TH DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

District Council 017 Public Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting Type:** Regular
- **Date:** May 9, 2026
- **Planned Start Time:** 1:00 PM
- **Location:** Independence Branch, 4024 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: 1:13 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:

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

IV. Approvals of Past Minutes

The Council will vote on past meeting minutes.

1. The **April 14, 2026 Regular** meeting minutes were approved with corrections
2. The **March 10, 2026 Special** meeting minutes were approved

District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

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:

- Paddy Lindley: thanked the council for maintaining pressure on CPD, City Council, and CCPSA regarding investigations into collaboration between CPD and federal immigration agencies, and into extremist affiliations within CPD. He noted significant anxiety in the community and emphasized the need for transparency and consistent updates.
 - o Also voiced urgency around expanding non-police crisis response (CARES), calling it essential to community safety.
 - o Congratulations were offered to the Commissioner occupying one of two available youth seats, 17th District member, Angelique Guzman.

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 Response to Mental and Behavioral Health Crises
Notes from discussion: • Residents reported multiple situations where officers who responded to behavioral health calls were not CIT-trained and showed little trauma-informed practice. Examples included: - o Officers disputing whether withdrawal/drug-related behaviors qualified as mental health concerns. - o Overwhelming police presence escalating distress for individuals in crisis. - o Residents urged greater emphasis on CIT coverage and appropriate dispatching.
Trend/concern: Inconsistent Enforcement of Local Ordinances
Notes from discussion: • A community member described an incident in which a car parked illegally on a sidewalk was not cited even after police intervened—highlighting perceived inconsistency in enforcing safety-related violations that affect pedestrians, older adults, and disabled residents.
Trend/concern: Impact of Large-Scale CPD Operations (Officer Bartholomew's

District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

funeral procession)
Notes from discussion: • A major concern throughout the meeting: - o Streets were blocked hours earlier than posted. - o Vehicles were reportedly towed before the stated enforcement time. - o Residents cited missed medical appointments, obstructed school access, and unannounced disruptions. - o Community members described the procession as an “aggressive show of force” that undermined trust. - o Concerns extended to overtime costs, resource use (including helicopters), and the absence of community notice.
Trend/concern: Ineffective Use of Community Meetings (Beat meetings)
Notes from discussion: • A resident criticized meetings dominated by crime statistics rather than problem-solving, arguing that the format limits meaningful engagement.
Trend/concern: District Strategic Plan (DSP) issues
Notes from discussion: • The community noted: - o Low participation in community conversations compared to last year. - o Perception that strategic plans are shelved without implementation. - o Lack of quarterly updates required under the consent decree.
Trend/concern: CPD Interactions with Unhoused Neighbors
Notes from discussion: • Residents expressed concerns about sweeps and the lack of training among CPD “affinity officers” responsible for interacting with unhoused people. • Calls were made for a district advisory group of unhoused residents and external subject-matter experts to help review and shape CPD policy. • Noted: no homeless shelters exist on the Northwest Side, shifting pressure onto encampments and creating safety risks.

VII. 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. Anthony and Ishmael from ALSO presented on the services and supports offered:
 - a. ALSO provides a comprehensive, relationship-based violence prevention and youth support model built on:
 - i. Crisis intervention
 - ii. Community engagement
 - iii. Case management
 - iv. Victim advocacy

District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

- v. Trauma-informed support
- vi. Cross-organizational collaboration
- b. Their work centers on consistent presence, deep trust-building, and practical alternatives that give youth meaningful pathways away from violence.

VIII. 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.

IX. 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 two nominees, Angelique Guzman and Anjanette Young, passed the Police & Fire Committee and will advance to a full City Council vote. A third seat remains unnamed. • Restorative Justice Community Courts (RJCC): Ongoing stakeholder meetings; planning site visits with incoming county board members. • CAPS Domestic Violence Subcommittee: Working toward a healing circle for committee members and outreach to fatherhood programs. • District Strategic Plan working group: Awaiting rescheduling of meetings with CPD leadership; coordinating with independent monitors before June consent decree hearing. • Commission Priorities (Victim Services): Highlighted gaps in CPD communication with victims; encouraged community members to escalate unresolved cases to the council. • Misconduct / Community Mediation Pilot: Updates on mediator selection and training; rollout details to come. • ICE/CPD Coordination Inquiry: Commission still seeking clarity on officer guidance, reporting requirements, and training. • Extremist Group Investigations: Ordinance to shift investigations from CPD Internal Affairs to COPA stalled in City Council due to concerns about applicability across city departments.
Community Engagement: Anthony Tamez
Notes from discussion: • Youth Council Recruitment: Extensive outreach done; renewed push likely in the fall. • Community Projects: Support for children's and adult book clubs and an elders'

District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

coffee gathering as district-supported engagement initiatives.
Chair: Luis Bermudez
Notes from discussion: • CARE Expansion: Citywide rollout expected by June, but staffing only supports 4 vans operating weekdays 10am–4:30pm. Emphasized need for expanded coverage and more signatures to demonstrate community demand. • Alternative Response: CARE and alternative response programs now linked; ongoing meetings with district partners.

X. Update from the Commission – provided during Councilor updates

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.

XI. 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
2. Policy recommendations from the community
 - a. Councilor Rochford spoke about her Priority Proposal advocating for an Unhoused Advisory Council to the Commission

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. Vote to allocate up to \$500 towards miscellaneous tabling fees/contributions that may be required for tabling at Farmer’s Markets throughout the summer.

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, June 16, 6:30 PM
 - ii. Roosevelt High School – 3436 W Wilson Ave, 60625
2. **Adjourned** at 2:41 PM