



DISTRICT COUNCILS

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Minutes from Public Meeting

DC 020 will be holding a public meeting. Below are the details:

- Meeting Type: Regular
- Date: June 8th, 2026
- Start Time: 6:36 PM
- End Time: 7:38 PM
- Location: JASC 5700 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60659

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Anna Rubin	Present: X Remote: ☐ Absent: ☐
Community Engagement: Deirdre O' Connor	Present: Remote : ☐ Absent: X
Nominating Committee: Darrell Dacres	Present: X Remote : ☐ Absent: ☐
Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes: X No: ☐	

Attendance	
# of attendees in person	9
# of attendees virtual	0
# of CPD attendees	0
CPD rank of attendees	0

- I. Public Comment- See Discussion
- II. Approved March, April, May Minutes
- III. Reports from the Councilor- none

Votes- None

- IV. Discussion:

1. Non-Police Crisis Response & Community Alternatives (CARE)

a. Overview & Rationale

- Emphasis on shifting from police-led crisis intervention to community-based, health-oriented models.
- Discussion on public health violence prevention models and their potential to empower community autonomy.

District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

- CARE (Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement) was presented as Chicago's program for non-police response to mental health crises.
- Key point: Teams consist of one mental health clinician and one EMT, not police; dispatched through 911 with specific CARE requests and only without weapons present.
- Service provision includes on-scene de-escalation, mental health assessment, community referrals, and planned follow-ups at 1, 7, and 30 days.

b. Is Non-Police Response Safe?

- Addressed the prevalent concern about safety in non-police interventions.
- Cited high-profile case studies from Durham, NC and Albuquerque showing high call volumes but extremely low incident rates.
- Durham and Albuquerque handle ~3,500 calls/month with <1% police "stack up".
- In Albuquerque, Police Chief reported a 53% reduction in use-of-force the first year after implementing non-police crisis teams.
- CARE's ability to call for police backup remains, but workflows are designed to maximize the match between call type and responder expertise.

c. Call Screening and Dispatch Process

- Calls are carefully screened—perhaps overly so—making it hard for many potential cases to actually be diverted to CARE, due to strict criteria.
- Calls route to the Fire Department first, not police, before they can be diverted to CARE.
- Advocacy is ongoing to create a third, distinct call branch in the OEMC system—mirroring other cities more flexible systems.

d. Funding and Resource Allocation

- Chicago city budget negotiations for 2027 currently underway; focus on ensuring CARE has sufficient funding as responsibilities shift from police.
- Discussion of proposed funding sources: social media/"smart" tax, progressive revenue, and eventual reallocation of some police funds as CARE assumes more crisis response duties.
- Estimated \$150 million needed for full program funding.

e. Current State of CARE in Chicago

- As of June 8, 2026: CARE now operates citywide for the first time, with 8 vans covering Chicago.

District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

- Still a pilot: operating hours are business days only (Mon–Fri, 10–4:30), with urgent need to expand to 24/7 service.
- Few calls currently reach CARE, making meaningful response time data difficult to assess; anticipated that response times remain stable due to low call numbers.
- Barriers to access: public awareness of CARE’s existence and protocols remains low; strict screening criteria and limited hours further restrict utilization.

f. Need for Expansion

- Universal agreement: 8 vans and limited hours are insufficient for city needs.
- Calls for expansion to full 24/7 coverage, more vans, and increased public education.

g. Integration with Community Services

- CARE links clients to public mental health clinics and community non-profits.
- Also highlighted: complexity of integrating with partners like Thresholds and improving data tracking regarding eligible calls and outcomes.

2. Public Mental Health Services Expansion

a. Vision and Demands

- Advocated for reopening all closed public mental health centers, and expanding to ensure every neighborhood has accessible, comprehensive, and free mental health care.
- Stressed the importance of "living room" crisis respite models—peer-led, walk-in spaces as alternatives to hospitalization.
- Aspirational: full-scale, community-rooted continuum of care, with robust public investment and peersupport worker training/employment.

b. Barriers

- Funding and budget reallocation.
- Lack of clear data on the number of calls that could/should be addressed by CARE.
- Need for citywide advisory structures to ensure services remain accountable and effective.

c. Community Canvassing and Advocacy

- Ongoing citywide campaign to collect signatures and support for expanded services.

District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

- Goals: At least 150 signatures/district in a majority of districts and by a majority of council members (goal updated to 35 districts and 33 councilors as of today).
- Focus on not self-limiting demands: "Ask for what you want, don't negotiate with yourself."
- Training provided on effective canvassing strategies (engagement, messaging, data collection).

3. ShotSpotter & Technology in Policing

a. ShotSpotter Discussion

- Concerns raised over the cancellation and efficacy of ShotSpotter and similar gunshot-detection technologies.
- Data cited: UChicago study found police response to high-priority calls improved by 4 minutes after ShotSpotter was ended.
- Studies reporting 40,000–50,000 false alarms leading to Fourth Amendment violations and wasted police resources.
- Problem: Technology's limitations in distinguishing gunshots from fireworks, cars, construction, etc.
- Investments in civilianizing police force and expanding non-police response seen as more effective for public safety and crime prevention.

b. Public Concerns Regarding Technology

Skepticism about effectiveness and appropriateness of surveillance and automated detection for community safety.

4. Police and ICE/Federal Agent Accountability

a. Recent Incidents & Oversight

- Community concerns raised over violence against civilians by immigration (ICE) and other federal agents, specifically citing a woman shot five times but case was handled as “federal” with no CPD follow-up or police report.
- Gaps in accountability and transparency, as local police and federal agencies deflect responsibility; special prosecutor not appointed due to lack of police report.
- District Council working group formed to track and address these incidents; public, however, has limited access to working group proceedings.
- Two public hearings have occurred since February/March; calls for more public-facing updates and involvement.

District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

b. Calls for Community Engagement & Accountability

- Community advocates and organizations (e.g., Indivisible Edgewater) are seeking better lines of communication with district councils and relevant city committees (e.g., Committee on Immigration and Refugee Rights).
- Goal: ensure residents know about, can attend, and can participate in accountability efforts, especially as related to federal agents' conduct.

5. Teen Takeovers, Youth Engagement, and Community Safety

a. Incident Review

- Review of recent feared “teen takeover” on city’s north side; heavy concerns of 600–700 youth gathering.
- Actual attendance: ~200 youth, with few incidents and effective mediation by violence prevention teams and crisis workers.
- Role of community organizations in preemptive, non-punitive engagement—music, food, de-escalation— instead of prioritizing law enforcement.
- Noted reduction of opportunities for young people due to closure of public spaces and programs.
- Discussion on distinguishing normal youth gatherings from problematic “takeovers,” media influence, and the importance of maintaining/expanding community resources.

Upcoming: South Side table, Tuesday, June 16th, at Kennedy King College

Next CCPSA (Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability) full commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 25th at 6:30 PM (accessible via Zoom and in person). Website: ccpsa.chicago.gov

Next local monthly meeting: Monday, July 13th at 6 PM at Broadway Armory.

South Side Budget Engagement Roundtable: Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at Kennedy King College.

Next CCPSA Commission Meeting: Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Next Monthly Meeting: Monday, July 13, 2026, at 6 PM, Broadway Armory.