

**CITY OF CHICAGO  
DISTRICT COUNCIL 024  
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING TYPE: X Regular  Special  Closed

MEETING DATE: 2/22/2026

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: Rogers Park Library 6907 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60626

MEETING START TIME: 3:10

**Attendance & Quorum**

The OMA Meeting cannot take place without 2 out of 3 members present in person.

<b>District Council Member Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Chair: Veronica Arreola</b>	Present
Nominator: Rev. Marilyn Pagan- Banks	Remote
Community Engagement: Keola Jean- Joseph	Present

Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes

Public Comment: One attendee asked about Council's purpose.

Brief informal discussion about the experience of homelessness and crime (noted that people experiencing homelessness are more often victims than perpetrators).

A resident expressed appreciation for increased visible police presence at Howard Station, noting improved feelings of safety.

Approval of Minutes : none

Updates:

Councilor Marilyn Pagan-Banks

Role: Sits on the nominating committee for the Citywide Commission.

Updates on Commission Nomination: Three commission vacancies this cycle (application window: Jan 7 – Feb 7). 58 applications reviewed for 16 finalist spots (in compliance with the ordinance for representation, e.g., minimum youth applicants for youth seat). Interviews of 16 finalists to be conducted over two sessions next week (one night, one Saturday morning). The committee will then nominate at least two individuals per seat for mayoral selection. Note: Final decision rests with the mayor. Safety Update: Noted recent shooting on Paulina Street (first in notable duration). Information

was being gathered, including through external organizations (One North Side), and via the formal commander-councilor communication process. Outreach to affected families ongoing. Community Needs: Emphasized neighborhood feedback continued to focus on the need for jobs and youth activities as crime prevention.

Councilor Jean Joseph

Role: Community Engagement Lead Case

Update: Assisted a resident who witnessed possible excessive use of police force; guided them through COPA complaint, provided mental health resources. Initiated information requests (through G-111) to confirm incident details; learned the incident actually fell under Evanston PD jurisdiction. Has reached out to Evanston PD for further follow-up. Engaged with local business (bar owner) for perspective on the incident—contrasting accounts between bystander and proprietor acknowledged. District Presence: Noted ongoing “Chat with DC” public engagement events. Upcoming events: March 1: Chat at North Town Branch Library. February 26: Tabling at 40th Ward’s first fireside chat at Mather High School (6:30–7:30 PM). March 7: Next quarterly citywide meeting at Kennedy King College (11:30 AM–3:15 PM). Next Steps: Will pursue further information on the excessive force incident and follow up with the complainant. Invited the community to beat meetings and citywide events.

Councilor Arreola:

Chair

Participation: Participating in citywide committee on Cook County Restorative Justice Community Court system. Significant advocacy resulted in policy reversal allowing nonviolent gun cases back into restorative justice courts (undoing prior exclusion). Commander Meeting: Scheduled for March 5 to discuss district-level trends and share community feedback (including specific positive feedback about increased officer visibility at transit stops). Clarification on Reporting Structure: Councillors have direct access to the district commander; encouraged to reach out between official meetings, especially for major incidents. Upcoming Involvement: Will participate in continued coordination with the city and CPD on various issues

Discussion:

Special Presentation: Trends in Domestic Violence and Funding Presenter: Artemisia, Pathway Program, Endeavor Health

Key Points: Domestic Violence Case Increases: Since 2019, substantial statewide and Chicago-specific increases in domestic violence reports. Statistics: Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline contacts jumped to 59,704 in 2024—a 26% increase from 2023 and 140% increase from 2019. For Chicago: 18,830 hotline contacts in 2024 (17% increase vs. 2023, 78% vs. 2019). Legal advocacy requests rose 74% between 2019 and 2024.

CPD/Community Service Gap: By September 2025, CPD had taken 57,000 domestic disturbance calls, including: 17,000 domestic battery calls, 13,000 order of protection violations. Reports: 1,400 aggravated assaults, 1,900 aggravated batteries, 320 sexual assaults, 37 homicides attributed. Domestic violence: 26% of violent crimes in Chicago (U.S. avg. ~20%).

Funding Concerns: Much of 2026's gender-based violence service budget routed to CPD's Office of Crime Victim Services. That office has 31 of 55 specialist vacancies. Community organizations (trusted and long-standing) have seen state and federal cuts; now face waitlists and reduced capacity. The Network (domestic violence coalition) requested \$3.9M in city funds be shifted from CPD to community orgs, with currently unmet success.

Relevance to Council: Encouraged the council to collaborate on budget advocacy and inclusion of domestic violence resource funding in broader safety conversations. Future town halls planned on CPD's budget; possibility to integrate domestic violence budget advocacy.

City-Level & District-wide Initiatives Collaboration with Other District Councils:

Recent petition gathered 2,000 signatures to demand hearing on CPD-ICE collaboration during "Midway Blitz." Led to January citywide hearing attended by 1,500 people (at Talia Hall).

Superintendent requested at next CCPSA meeting (Feb 26); declined to attend, but panel will proceed with COPA and Internal Affairs.

Discussion about mechanisms for public petitions and calling for commission hearings; further legal counsel to explore if similar petitions could be used on domestic violence funding.

Workforce Allocation Study: New executive summary released; full report due soon. Found 600 CPD positions across 170 assignments could be civilianized (filled by non-sworn staff), freeing up officers for frontline duties. Recommendation: Chicago's civilian staffing behind national peers; adopting changes would allow more effective police allocation without increasing total force size. Key point: Effective staffing, not just officer numbers, should be focus of budget and safety strategy.

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: 3/22/2026

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): Indo American Center

District Council ended the meeting at: 4:08 pm