



DISTRICT COUNCILS

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Minutes from Public Meeting

DC 024 will be holding a public meeting. Below are the details:

- Meeting Type: Regular
- Date: May 17 , 2026
- Start Time: 3:05 PM
- End Time: 3:48 PM
- Location: Edgewater Branch Library - 6000 N. Broadway

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Veronica Arreola	Present: X Remote: ☐ Absent:
Community Engagement: Keola Jean Joseph	Present: X Remote : ☐ Absent: ☐
Nominating Committee: Marilyn Pagan Banks	Present: Remote : ☐ Absent: x
Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes: X No: ☐	

Attendance	
# of attendees in person	6
# of attendees virtual	1
# of CPD attendees	0
CPD rank of attendees	N/A

I. Public Comment

- Neighbor 1: Topic: Police response time
 - o Content: Praised police for recent quick action addressing a shooting at Howard. Concern that personnel cuts and increased paperwork have slowed overall police response. Recalled past reliability in response to CTA (Red and Blue line) incidents; now feels that is lacking. Links safety concerns to declining CTA ridership
- Neighbor 2 via zoom: . Mara Topic: Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) response & mental health emergencies
 - o Content: Recounted personal experience trying to help a person on drugs; tried to use all alternatives before calling police. Specifically requested CIT officers but non-CIT officers responded. One officer stated CIT “just does mental health” and this situation “wasn’t for them” despite being drug related. Shared concern that CIT is not dispatched adequately or with proper understanding of their role. Expressed wish to share further details in the future as the situation was extended and distressing. Spoke again at meeting’s end to provide more details and video documentation, confirming only later did a CIT-trained officer arrive, after incident was nearly resolved.
- Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth, Alderwoman 48th Ward: Acknowledged high volume of 911 calls and especially unmet behavioral and mental health service needs along lakefront and

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among unhoused populations. Praised Council's community engagement and stressed the importance of public feedback. Encouraged involvement in city budgeting discussions and pushing for prioritization of transit and public services

II. Approved: Quarterly Meeting minutes (March 7th), March regular meeting minutes, April regular meeting minutes, and April 15th Public Safety Grant Special Meeting Minutes

III. Discussion:

Met with CPD Commander to raise community concerns, including reports of unhoused individuals being ticketed on the Red Line; CPD indicated tickets are not issued for sleeping on trains but may be issued for related conduct (e.g., smoking, drinking, moving through train cars), and requested specific examples for follow-up

A. Public Safety and Police Response

1. Response Time:

- Repeated concerns raised about police taking longer to respond to CTA incidents—particularly on Red and Blue lines

B. Crisis Intervention Team Issues:

1. Examples where CIT officers were requested but not dispatched or where responding officers misunderstood their role.
2. Confusion among CPD officers about what situations warrant CIT involvement (drug-related incidents included). Mara's firsthand account raised need for better CIT deployment and training.

C. Traffic Enforcement:

1. Complaint received about repeated red light violations on Sheridan and another street; specific offenders cited. Council is coordinating with CAPS and Ald. Maria Haddon's office for increased enforcement and signage

D. Catalytic Converter and Airbag Thefts:

1. Plans underway for a free catalytic converter serial engraving event

E. Public Transit Security and Systemic Issues

1. CTA Security Changes

- Ending of private security contract on the CTA; CPD has reassumed responsibility. No clear communication on new procedures; council to follow up on further details of transition and effectiveness.

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F. Unhoused Populations and Service Gaps

1. Red Line and Howard Area

- Recurrent issue of unhoused individuals using CTA for shelter, especially overnight.
- Policy of requiring people to exit at terminal stations leaves individuals with nowhere to go in the middle of the night, contributing to encampments under viaducts.
- Narcan availability limited (only at Willie B. White Park—not at or near Howard itself). Council is seeking to increase access, possibly through new restroom facilities, porta-potties, and direct outreach

G. Grant and Budget Initiatives:

1. University of Virginia Small Grant:

- Letter of Intent submitted (late April) for \$50,000 public safety/urban violence project. Focus: Beautification and outreach in Howard Red Line area, potential increase in public facilities, Narcan distribution, and resource access for unhoused populations.

2. CARE Program Expansion:

- City's behavioral health crisis response ("CARE") has expanded citywide but not in terms of vehicles or service hours—remains weekdays, 10am–4:30pm with only 1–2 vans. Council is collecting petitions to expand both hours and capacity.

H. Domestic Violence and Victim Services

1. Reporting Trends:

- CCPSA April meeting highlighted significant increases (34–46% by ward) in domestic and gender-based violence-related hotline calls.

I. Council Community Engagement

1. Tabling efforts at Rogers Park Carnival (previous day) to raise awareness, collect feedback, and inform residents of services.

II. Final Announcements and Adjournment:

- Next Meeting Date: June 17, 2026
- Next Meeting Time: 6:30 PM
- Location: Willye White Park