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: June 17 , 2026
- Start Time: 6:31 pm
- End Time: 7:17 PM
- Location: White (Willye B) Park 1610 W Howard St

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: X	Remote :☐	Absent:
Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes: X No: ☐			

Attendance	
# of attendees in person	5
# of attendees virtual	2
# of CPD attendees	0
CPD rank of attendees	N/A

I. Public Comment:

Montreal:

- Expressed concern about the treatment of unhoused individuals and lack of meaningful help.
- Many individuals are repeatedly moved rather than assisted.
- A Just Harvest provides a space for rest, food, and relaxation for those in need.
- Noted a range of needs among the visitors, including mental health challenges.
- Emphasized the importance of support instead of displacement

II. Meeting Minutes postponed for approval at next regular meeting

III. Discussion:

Public Safety Concerns at the Howard L Station and Surrounding Area

a. Approach to Safety and the Unhoused

- The district has submitted a letter of intent for funding to improve safety around the Howard station, with a focus on inclusivity.

- Emphasis on not making the unhoused population the target of safety initiatives.
- Recognition that safety concerns should not solely be about complaints regarding discomfort around unhoused people; concerns must also address the vulnerability of unhoused individuals, particularly women experiencing violence or assault.
- Holds a philosophy of harm reduction, prioritizing compassion and dignity, e.g., providing safe spaces for sleep to prevent sexual violence.

b. Rail Hub Dynamics and Safety Narratives

- Howard station's unique position as a hub: connects red, yellow, and purple lines into Evanston and other areas.
- Stress that safety needs to be framed through a broad, inclusive lens, elevating all stories and voices, not just those who are housed or otherwise dominant.

c. Community Input and Resource Development

- Ongoing goal to "raise resources" and "raise a different way of telling the story" about safety.
- Invitation for further community input, with an open meeting scheduled for June 20th (Saturday), 10:00am at A Just Harvest Cafe (Paulina St., orange building) for public safety feedback.

2. Alderman's Office and Security Coordination

- The office fields regular concerns about Howard station, noting its prominence as a terminal and transfer point, especially for the unhoused.
- The CTA and alderman's office are "reworking security" and considering increasing the number of on-train personnel for general security across the CTA network.
- Discussions ongoing about improving station security and gathering more community feedback via police meetings (encouragement for increased participation in district meetings).
- Police presence (police car stationed at Howard) continues, but additional input from the community is sought.

3. Perceptions of Safety and Diversity in the Community

- Residents discuss how perceptions of safety differ depending on the demographic makeup and vibrancy of certain areas. Example: Addison stop versus Howard, comparing levels of comfort and community energy.
- Noted tension between authentic community values (genuine diversity and neighborliness) and "nasty nice" or "fake nice" attitudes from newcomers, often linked to gentrification and displacement.
- Reminder: authentic community safety comes from mutual recognition and inclusivity, not avoidance or exclusion.
- Urging the community to uphold the area's tradition of real diversity and protect it from erosion.

4. Restorative Justice and District Committee Updates

- Continued efforts to expand the reach of the Restorative Justice Committee in Cook County, including meetings with commissioners.
- Some commissioners leaving; the committee has reached out to primary winners for continuity.
- Proposal to extend court accessibility and case diversity; interest in raising the age limit from 18–26 to older.
- Efforts to establish more local and accessible restorative justice courts.

5. Grant Proposals and Service Initiatives

- District submitted a grant proposal (to the University of Virginia for ~$50,000) focused on:
  - Beautification of Howard St. stop (not superficial, but welcoming/inclusive).
  - Expanded public access to restrooms, showers.
  - Narcan and overdose response training for area businesses and the public.
  - Anti-bias training for local stakeholders.
- Grant was not awarded, but the group seeks alternative methods to implement these ideas.
- Emphasis on practical steps the community can take without full funding.

6. Recent Incidents Highlighting Need for Change

- Reports of police shootings and violence in the days prior:
- A person in the suburbs shot by police responding to a mental health crisis.
- The death of a one-year-old after police shot at a car allegedly involved in shoplifting diapers.
- A dog killed by police, further sparking community outrage.
- Calls for transforming crisis response—highlighting the limitations and dangers of police interventions in mental health and poverty-related incidents.
- Advocacy for broader adoption and understanding of the city's "Care Team" crisis response, not police interventions.

7. Security and Crime Prevention Initiatives

- Efforts to schedule meetings with the police commander to address:
- Red light violations on Sheridan.
- Serial engraving events for catalytic converters (to prevent theft).
- Ongoing issues with police responsiveness to property crime—for example, police not responding to airbag theft calls despite the issue being citywide.

- Coordinated outreach (video collaboration with District 19) on Care program expansion

8. District Council and Community Coordination

- Discussion on the need for stronger support for safety proposals and ongoing communication with stakeholders.
- Push for more signatures and support among the District Council and community members for grant initiatives and new ideas.

9. Administrative and Enforcement Issues

- Resident complaints that CPD is not enforcing residential permit parking, despite it being their designated responsibility; 311 system reportedly unhelpful.
- Suggestion to escalate the issue with direct CPD involvement and use of 911 in non-emergency enforcement, though acknowledging limitations in police availability.

10. Additional Community Concerns

- Cleanliness of Red Line trains in the early morning—trains not cleaned adequately before service begins was raised as a quality-of-life issue for daily riders.

11. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- **Community Chat:** Saturday, June 20, 2026, 10:00am, A Just Harvest Cafe to collect additional community feedback on public safety.
- **District Council Meeting:** July 19, 2026, 3pm, Indo American Center.
- **Glenwood Arts Festival:** Table/booth presence planned in August.

IV. Final Announcements and Adjournment:

- Next Meeting Date: July 19, 2026
- Next Meeting Time: 3:00 PM
- Location: Indo American Center