

City of Chicago

District Council Meeting Minutes 018

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 24, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:07 PM

Location: Anti-Cruelty Society, 157 W. Grand Ave., Chicago

Format: Hybrid (In-person and Zoom)

CPD Representatives: Commander Bielfeldt; Sergeant Schenk

Attendance: 21 in-person; 5 virtual

Call to Order & Roll Call

- Meeting called to order.
- Roll call conducted.
- Quorum confirmed.

Council Members' Present:

- Councilor Brad Kessler
 - Councilor Karen Kane (remote)
 - Councilor Robert Johnson
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Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion to approve the January 17, 2026, regular meeting minutes made by Councilor Kane.
 - Seconded by Councilor Johnson.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
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Public Comments

- No formal public comments recorded.
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Councilor Reports & Updates

Nominator Update – Robert Johnson

- Two meetings held; candidate pool narrowed to 16 finalists from 54 applicants.
- Interviews scheduled:
 - February 25 (evening; approximately 5 hours)
 - February 26 (8:00 AM – 8:00 PM; approximately 12 hours)
- Candidate pool described as strong and increasingly knowledgeable about board operations.

Workforce Allocation Study – Councilor Karen Kane (Community Engagement, remote)

- Executive summary (23 pages) released within the past two weeks.
- Full report (800+ pages) forthcoming.
- Study includes a comprehensive staffing and deployment review across all CPD departments.

Preliminary Recommendations:

- Hire 270 additional sworn officers.
 - Promote 90 additional ranks/services.
 - Reassign approximately 600 sworn positions to civilian roles.
 - Civilianization aligns with prior Civic Federation and Matrix Consulting Group findings.
 - Implementation will require collective bargaining and a phased, multi-year review.
 - Study funded within the past year through private-sector support.
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Chair Report – Brad Kessler

Area 3 Detective Supervisor

- New leadership overseeing six districts described as highly qualified.

State Attorney’s Office

- New misdemeanor supervisor (successor to Jeff Allen) is open to attending future meetings.
- Continued collaboration emphasized, particularly regarding retail theft tracking.

Curfew Law Update

- “SNAP Curfew” renamed “Time and Sight Curfew.”
- Alderman Hopkins is working toward compromise language acceptable to the Mayor.

Noise Monitoring Pilot

- Initiative ongoing.
- Department of Finance is supportive.
- Mayor’s Office raised equity concerns regarding the potential impact on lower-income residents.

Meetings with Aldermen

- Productive meeting with the 43rd Ward regarding district policy matters.
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911 Analysis Presentation

Purpose & Data Sources

- Focus on call volume, prioritization, dispatch times, and systemic challenges.
- Data obtained via FOIA request to OEMC.
- Inspector General and CNA data referenced; discrepancies noted across sources.

911 Process Overview

- 338 event types in the PCAD system.
 - Priority levels range from officer-in-trouble to administrative events.
 - Dispatch targets:
 - Priority 1–2 within 10 minutes.
 - Priority 3 within 60 minutes.
 - Thirteen dispatch zones; two dispatchers per zone covering two districts.
 - Crisis intervention officers are not always assigned due to database lag.
 - CARE program not available in this district.
 - Community frustration noted regarding delays for lower-priority calls.
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Data Findings – 18th District (2024 & Partial 2025)

- Cleaned dataset included approximately 335,000 calls.
- The initial dataset included approximately 655,000 records before data cleaning.

Top Call Types:

- EMS
- Auto accidents (property damage)
- Disturbances
- Commercial burglar alarms
- Well-being checks
- Theft reports

- Parking violations
- Assaults (in progress, 2025)

Priority 3 Calls:

- Represent the majority of community complaints.
- Frequently exceed 60-minute dispatch target.
- Often remain in the queue or “radio assignment pending.”

Beat-Level Trends:

- Elevated parking and noise complaints in Lincoln Park and dense street-parking areas.
 - Commercial burglar alarms are concentrated in business and high-rise districts.
 - Streeterville beats (1833/1834) show double or triple call volume compared to other beats.
 - Seasonal spikes observed during summer months and extreme weather.
 - Data discrepancies noted among FOIA data, CPD dashboards, Inspector General, CNA, and Chicago Health Atlas reporting.
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Alternate Program Discussion

- Reference to 19th District parking enforcement communication model.
 - Need identified for alternative response models for chronic nuisance calls, such as noise and parking.
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Commander’s Remarks

- Dispatch prioritization structure is largely unchanged, though technology continues to improve.
 - Assignments based on beat rather than the nearest available officer.
 - High volume of low-priority calls citywide.
 - Minor report-only incidents may not receive officer response due to resource limitations.
 - Residents encouraged them to continue reporting repeated disturbances.
 - Highest call volumes occur Thursday through Saturday nights.
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Tactical Team – Unit 1863 Status & Oversight

- Recent press coverage regarding misconduct allegations involving former team members.
- Five officers relieved of police powers and removed from the district; investigations are ongoing.

- Unit restructured with new sergeant; approximately 90% staffed (four teams; approximately 37 officers).
 - Leadership emphasized integrity and professionalism.
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Local Crime Trends

Business Burglaries

- Notable increase in overnight burglaries involving window smashing and ATM/register thefts.
- Pattern believed to be citywide.
- Offenders are using stolen vehicles and forcibly removing ATMs in some cases.
- CPD is conducting outreach to businesses.
- Recommendations include removing cash overnight, upgrading security systems, and installing shatterproof decals or window films.

Other Trends

- Summer and holiday periods correlate with increased lower-priority complaints.
 - Certain downtown-adjacent areas are experiencing repeated domestic disturbance calls.
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Follow-Up & Next Meeting

- Full Workforce Allocation Study report expected in the coming weeks.
- Additional 2025 911 FOIA response-time and officer-activity data pending.
- Continued encouragement of business security upgrades, including shatterproof window film installation.

Next Meeting:

- March 24, 2026
- 12:15 PM
- Near North Library, 310 W. Division (subject to rescheduling due to spring breaks)