

**CITY OF CHICAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 005
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING TYPE: X Regular Special Closed

MEETING DATE: February 23,2026

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: Chicago State University 9501 South King Drive

MEETING START TIME: 6:13 pm

Attendance & Quorum

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

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair:	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominator:	Present: <input type="checkbox"/> x Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement:	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes: No:

Public Comment

A. Truck Parking in Residential Areas

Issue: Repeated complaints about trucks using residential streets for parking; ongoing for over a year, particularly near 95th Street, Greenwood, and University.

Responses/Suggestions:

This is primarily a police beat issue.

Residents encouraged to use the city's 311 system (call or online form) for reporting vehicles left unremoved for more than 7 days and can submit photos via the online complaint form.

Attendees noted a lack of police follow-up; reporting through beat meetings and continued community notifications recommended.

Police Staffing Concerns

Issue: For over 20 years, beat B511 has had only two patrol cars despite its large area and peripheral location.

Official Explanation: Normal city policy is one car per beat per watch; B511 has a second car assigned when possible, due to district location, but full staffing not always possible.

Approval of Minutes

December meeting minutes reviewed and approved; previous meeting (January) was canceled due to inclement weather (heavy snow/ice incident resulting in a councilor's car accident on 99th Place Road).

Discussions

- Discussion on the need for city investment in resources and alternatives for youth to reduce crime; council does not support “defund the police,” but advocates for diversion resources.

Community Presentation – Phalanx Family Services (Lisa Butler)

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention & Gun Violence Survivor Support

Program Overview:

Immediate response to victims of violence at Christ Hospital and throughout the Far South Side/Suburbs.

Support offers include: victim/family counseling, therapy, case management, aid with rehousing, employment, transportation, legal paperwork, funeral arrangements.

Intervention aims to prevent both recidivism and retaliatory/persistent violence (noting data that 60% of victims are at risk of further violence).

Programs funded for all of Cook County, not limited to Chicago—service area includes Roseland, Pullman, West Pullman, Calumet Heights, Englewood, and South Suburbs.

Broader Community-Focused Work

Play Streets: Organizes large neighborhood festivals (water slides, games, food, resource vendors) to activate blocks, encourage community pride, and connect residents to resources (including health, employment, and safety programs).

Covid Response: Served as contact tracer; collaborated closely with 5th District Police during neighborhood outreach.

Ongoing Support: Intensive support after family/school violence incidents, providing wraparound care.

Coming Initiatives:

Partnering with Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives to anchor services at the new cop house (121st and Indiana), including job skill training, digital/financial literacy, summer/youth programs.

Planned expansion of Play Streets and similar programming, actively seeking increased collaboration with councilors and community.

C. Discussion on Framing Community Issues

Debate and clarification on language used to describe marginalized communities—emphasis that problems such as street trash or property neglect can be signs of deeper marginalization, underinvestment, or mental health needs, rather than “laziness.”

Call for sensitivity and recognition of structural factors (e.g., fly dumping by businesses, historical marginalization) and the need for careful, nonjudgmental language when speaking of community members.

Agreement that renewed organizing, pride, and mutual assistance are essential, with the caveat to avoid stigmatizing people struggling with complex challenges.

intergenerational Bridging and Youth Engagement

Plans:

Initiatives to bridge generational divides through roundtable discussions, game nights, and co-hosted activities between teens and older residents.

Preliminary activities launched via research program collaboration with Northwestern University, seeking co-facilitation from council members and volunteer recruitment.

All present express support and interest in assisting/enhancing youth-senior engagement.

General Discussion and Announcements

Next Meetings

Quarterly Meeting: March 7th, 2026

Updates

A. Nominating Committee Update (Tom McMahon)

Commission Applications:

Nominations closed on February 3rd.

53 applications received for 3 commission positions (above district council level).

Final interview round set for Wednesday through Saturday next week: 16 candidates selected for interviews.

2 nominees per open position to be proposed to the mayor, who will make the final selection.

B. Community Engagement Update (Ponchita Moore)

Attended multiple community events (esp. Far South Side Coalition, meetings run by Bernardo Guzman) for outreach and resident engagement.

Focused on informing residents of District Council's role in bridging the gap between community and police to foster safety and trust.

C. Chair Updates (Robert McKay)

Newsletter: Still in delayed progress; aim is to distribute before the next meeting.

Police Report

. District Police Report

Stats & Trends (Lieutenant Dan O'Connor)

Year-to-Date Crime Statistics vs previous year:

Murders: Down 20%

Criminal Sexual Assaults: Down 67%

Robberies: Slight uptick

Aggravated Batteries: Down 13%

Burglaries: Up 13% (net difference: +3 incidents)

Thefts: Down 27%

Motor Vehicle Thefts: Down 35%

Overall Crime: Down 24%

Shooting Victims: Down 15%

Shooting Incidents: Down 10%

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 23, 2026

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): Chicago State University

District Council ended the meeting at:6:57 pm