COMMUNITY COMMISSION for PUBLIC SAFETY and ACCOUNTABILITY
PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, June 25, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Benito Juarez High School
Chicago, Illinois

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APPEARANCES:
President Remel Terry
Vice President Angel Rubi Navarijo
Commissioner Sandra Wortham
Commissioner Gina Piemonte
Commissioner Anthony Driver
Commissioner Anjanette Young
Commissioner Angelique Guzman
Executive Director Adam Gross

PRESIDENT TERRY: Good evening. Good evening. The June 25th meeting of the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability is called to order.

Good evening, everyone, and we are going to go ahead and get started.

Please place your cell phones on silent mode. Remain seated. And if you will be using any small hand-held devices, please refrain from using them in a way that interferes with the ability of others to see or hear proceedings.

We will begin by calling the roll to establish a quorum. Commissioner Driver.

COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Present.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Guzman.

COMMISSIONER GUZMAN: Present.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Piemonte.

COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Present.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Vice President Rubi Navarijo.

COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Present.

PRESIDENT TERRY: President Terry is here. Commissioner Wortham. Commissioner Young.

COMMISSIONER YOUNG: Present.

PRESIDENT TERRY: With six of the members of the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability Present, we have a quorum, and we can conduct the Commission's business.

The next item of business is public comment. Before we begin public comment, we'd like to share a few words on the Commission's rules for behavior at Commission meetings.

The commission's bylaws have rules that apply to everyone at our meetings, both commissioners and people in the audience. The rules are designed to make things -- meetings a place where all speakers are safe, have an opportunity to be heard, and are able to speak without disruption or intimidation. If people interrupt, disrupt, harass, threaten, discriminate, or disrespect, the Chair of the meeting will call to order issuing warnings to people who violated the rules and can ultimately have someone removed for violating the rules.

Commissioners can also make motions to enforce the rules. We ask everyone to help create a safe space where we can have hard conversations respectfully and allow every

speaker to be heard. Thank you.

If you would like to share something related to the Commission's work on Public Safety and Accountability, you have a few options. You can come here to a public meeting to give comments. You can also submit public comment in writing by emailing your comment to CommunityCommissionpubliccomment@CityofChicago.org. If you have a printed version of your comment, you can also give it to someone on the Commission or someone on the Commission staff tonight.

People who wanted to speak were asked to submit their names in writing earlier tonight.

A member of Commission staff then drew names at random. We have allotted three minutes for public comment which is enough time for everyone to have two minutes to speak.

If your name is not called tonight, we will still like to hear from you. If you don't have an opportunity to speak but have a printed copy of your comment, you can share it with the staff member, or you can email it again

to CommunityCommissionpubliccomment@CityofChicago.org.

All comments that are submitted will be shared with the commissioners.

We will now begin public comment. Speakers, you will be called in order in which your names were drawn.

If your name is called, please approach the microphone and line up in order in which your name is called.

When it is your turn to speak, please say your name, then spell your first and last name, then offer your comments. Again, each speaker will two minutes.

Our first three speakers are Andy Thayer. Grace Patino. Kaya Rial.

MR. THAYER: Hi. My name is Andy Thayer. Last name T-H-A-Y-E-R.

I attended most of the -- actually, all of the hearings concerning the demand for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate ICE crimes, and while, predictably, the hearings were a big disappointment with

regards to Eileen O'Neill Burke, the most shocking fact about this was that for all the hundreds -- perhaps thousands of crimes committed by federal officers during Operation Midway Blitz, not a single one of these crimes was reported by any law enforcement agency within Cook County to the State's Attorney's Office.

Now, I'm not excusing Eileen O'Neill Burke who has been a total -- shall we say, AWOL on this, to put it mildly, but the fact that no single police officer, no single agency, whether it was the CPD, Franklin Park Police, or any of the others reported any of these crimes to Eileen O'Neill Burke, says that the blue code of silence is alive and well in Cook County protecting federal officers.

So this is a problem with the CPD, which is your responsibility to look over, and I, for one, having seen the films and seen some of the violence of these federal officers is absolutely disgusting that not a single law enforcement agency within Cook County, whether you're talking state police, CPD, Franklin Park Police, not a single one of them reported crimes,

many of which they personally witnessed, to Eileen O'Neill Burke. And that's something I would ask the Commissioners to address. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

MS. PATINO: Hi, guys. I'm coming from the 17th District where we recently saw the crash caused by ICE and then the dropped magazine clip that they left behind on the street. And as a resident of the district that that happened in, I want to express my concern and frustration that my community's still not safe, even with Operation Midway Blitz being over.

I also want to raise concern that we still have an officer on the force who seemingly hasn't been looked into, at least to my knowledge, and I think the general public's knowledge, who was seen on body-cam footage warning an ICE officer to stop talking because he was being recorded right after these agents shot Ms. Martinez five times.

Now, if that isn't colluding with ICE, I don't know what is. And I want to know whatever happened to hold that officer

accountable and why is no one talking about that.

And, you know, I don't know how we can expect CPD to be reporting, you know, crimes that ICE is committing when we're seeing something as blatant as that kind of collaboration and collusion happening before our eyes. And it is really disappointing and disheartening that no one has talked about this, at least publicly, and it's very publicly accessible information.

So I would request that you guys do some looking into this issue for us, and, you know, can we identify who -- I know we can identify who the officer was, but can you do that for us? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

MS. RIAL: My name is Kaya Rial. K-A-Y-A, R-I-A-L. I'm a resident of the 12th Ward, 9th Police District.

Since the last meeting, more evidence of CPD's ICE collaboration continues to crop up.

On June 2nd, we saw ICE crash into a bystander's car and drop a magazine of live

rounds into a crowded neighborhood. Instead of thoroughly completing the investigation, CPD quickly closed the case by the end of the week, classifying the crash as "non-criminal."

They reported that there were no additional investigative leads. This is despite the wealth of video and photo evidence that residents and nearby businesses reported collecting.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that an insurance agent handling the claim of the woman whose car was damaged has not heard back from CPD or federal officials.

This raises serious questions about whether CPD conducted the thorough review that this incident demands.

CPD's compliance with the Welcoming City Ordinance is nominal at best, an outright collaboration in the moment this City and people need them to act the most.

These rushed investigations, cutting corners, all of these are typical of what immigrants in the City have come to expect when it comes to CPD conduct. No justice, no respect,

and no accountability.

Official city bodies and oversight agencies like the immigration and accountability committee have continued recommending stronger accountability and transparency measures regarding CPD's role in immigration enforcement. Yet, CPD's reporting and compliance practices remain unchanged.

It is the duty of this Commission to hold these cops accountable. The question is, Why haven't you?

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you. Our next speakers are Elena Gormley, Eli Bahina, Kayla Nguyen, and Lee Bielecki.

MS. GORMLEY: Good afternoon. My name is Elena Gormley. I'm a social worker and homeowner in the 49th Ward, and I am here tonight because my amazing colleague Anjanette is now on the dias as a member of the CCPSA.

I also want to congratulate Angelique Guzman who had to deal with some really inappropriate comments from City Council, but who is -- I'm very proud is going to be representing me as one of the north side commissioners.

Anjanette is truly the best of the social work profession. And social work, like police, does have a very ugly history of upholding a lot of harmful things and often harming extremely vulnerable people.

I know Anjanette also understands that history. I also want to say to the rest of you who are returning commissioners, please do not waste my colleague's time and her talents.

I say that because I've been to a lot of meetings where all of you have acted worse than 12 year olds. You are not good at facilitating these meetings. You are not good at actually protecting a wide variety of viewpoints in public comment, and you have not really done your due diligence as a body that is supposed to be the highest level of accountability on the chief of COPA and on the police superintendent.

So, again, I am really excited to see what Anjanette is going to be doing as commissioner. She is going to be phenomenal, but, please, do not waste her time. Do not waste her energy, because she has so much to contribute to this body, and I'm afraid that you're going to

waste that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

MS. BAHENA: Good afternoon. My name is Elianne Bahena. E-L-I-A-N-N-E, B-A-H-E-N-A, and I am the 10th District Council member.

So as part of the nominating committee, I want to extend my congratulations to the appointment of Commissioner Young and Commissioner Guzman. I'm excited to see this position to this body.

But I'm here today because over the past year, our communities have been showing up to these Commission meetings. We have shared our experiences about how we've been terrorized across the City. We've talked about our families being picked off the streets. We have seen CPD's role in immigration enforcement, and we've asked the Commission to take an active role as an oversight body, and we are here today because that work isn't being done.

Since the Commission's last meeting, more evidence has continued to raise serious questions about CPD's compliance with the Welcoming City Ordinance.

Most recently, in Albany Park, where we witnessed an ICE operation with CPD involvement that left a vehicle damaged, a rushed investigation by CPD that has left more questions than answers, and that's exactly why independent oversight matters.

Today, as two new commissioners join the Commission, there's an opportunity for the rest of this Commission to re-affirm its purpose.

I'm asking you to listen. I'm asking you to raise your hand. I'm asking you to step up to the role that you have.

We hope this Commission takes the opportunity to truly listen to the communities here today that consistently shown up, and please recognize that Chicagoans continue to care deeply about CPD and ICE collaboration, and the impact that it has on public trust and public safety.

The Commission was created to provide independent oversight. That responsibility hasn't changed. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

MS. NGUYEN: My name is Kayla Nguyen. That's

K-A-Y-L-A, N-G-U-Y-E-N. I'd first like to start by welcoming Commissioners Young and Guzman to the Commission. We welcome your expertise and, you know, police accountability.

Of course, Ms. Young, Chicago Alliance has a great relationship with you, and we welcome your expertise, and we understand that you know intimately what it means to be a victim of police brutality.

Commissioner Guzman, as a Latino member of the Commission, we understand also that, you know, how CPD and ICE collaboration affects your community as well as ours.

We've been showing up here since January when nearly 1600 people showed up to tell you all to demand an end to CPD/ICE collaboration.

We've been showing up month after month mobilizing thousands of community members to these meetings month after month after month.

Since then, listen, we know about the OIG. We know you guys are asking for information requests, but at the end of the day, there is no concrete action being taken here.

There is no concrete policy change that we can point to and say, Well, you know, they actually did something, you know, like police accountability, body, like we're getting some work done here.

Instead, we see time and time again that CPD and ICE collaboration continues to exist.

We're talking about like way back June 4th when police calls were revealed that they knew ICE was calling for help, and they came to ICE's aid. That's the calls that they were referring to. And during Operation Midway Blitz, of course we have the shooting of Marimar Martinez, which, you know, other public commenters have spoken to today. Now, just a few weeks ago, we have this car crash in Albany Park. There is video evidence. We have people coming up to you over and over again telling you videos, testimonies of CPD and ICE collaboration.

So I implore you as commissioners to take this issue seriously, because it is.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

MR. BIELECKI: Good evening. Lee Bielecki,

22nd District Council. B-I-E-L-E-C-K-I. I also want to welcome Anjanette Young who's a constituent in my district.

Angelique Guzman, welcome to the Commission. You're going to find out that you're grossly underpaid. You're going to find out that this is difficult work. I'm going to ask you to rely on the expertises of Anthony Driver, Remel Terry, Angel Rubi Navarijo, Sandra Wortham, Gina Piemonte, who's been on about a year. My jury is still out on her. The issue is, I just wanted to say welcome.

And, obviously, we have a lot of dissenters who talk about police and ICE collaboration.

I constantly am keeping up with COPA since Alderman Fuentes enacted the ability for COPA to investigate police/ICE collaboration of the Welcoming City Ordinance.

My last conversation with Max Thurman from COPA was there were only two, two complaints citywide, two. So I don't know where all of these activities are occurring.

I'm on record saying that I was not

happy with the way Greg Bonvino came in and started and did Operation Midway Blitz, much to the disdain of some of my constituents who, you know, obviously feel that ICE's activity was something that, you know, was desperately needed.

I think there's a lot of change that needs to be done in the law, and the law that the state has in terms of trying to get the worst of the worst out. But, you know, grabbing people off the street was not something that I wanted to see, just indiscriminately. I don't feel that that was beneficial. Thank God Bonvino is gone. Not a fan.

But, again, I just want to welcome you two to the Commission. And, again, rely on Remel Terry. You're going to hear a lot of stuff about police, but your role is to work with the police also on developing policies that are community-based, and if we don't -- if we ignore that, like some of these folks in the background want to do -- I was at those meetings, too, and I heard screaming and yelling at the Commissioners. That's not the kind of activity we need to respond to. Thank you. And good luck.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you. Order, please.

For the purpose of the record, Commissioner Wortham is present.

We've reached the end of public comment period. Thank you, again, to our speakers. We value your input.

Before we start our meeting, I would like to say a few words. June is Gun Violence Awareness Month, a time when communities across the country pause to reflect on the lives lost, the families forever changed, and the neighborhood still working towards healing and safety.

Here in Chicago, too many families continue to endure the pain and tragedy of losing loved ones to gunfire.

In recent weeks, our City has once again faced heartbreaking incidences of violence, including the recent tragedy in the Back of the Yards neighborhood and the gun violence that continues to plague communities on Chicago's south and west sides.

The crisis of gun violence is real, and it affects every one of us, no matter what

part of the City we live in.

Gun violence is not a challenge that any single person, neighborhood, or organization can solve alone. It requires all of us to work together to support prevention efforts, invest in our young people, and create a city where safety is the norm, not the exception.

This Commission was created to give community a meaningful voice in public safety decisions.

As we mark Gun Violence Awareness Month, let us commit to working together to help those communities most impacted by gun violence and support our young people to ensure they have resources they need to thrive.

Now, I ask that we pause for a few moments to remember all of those who have lost lives to gun violence and those family members and friends that continue to bear the burden of those tragedies.

Thanks. The next order of business is the approval of minutes. Before today's meeting, draft minutes of the Commission's regular meeting held on May 28th were shared with

all commissioners. Are there any corrections to the minutes that have been circulated? If there are no corrections, I move to approve the minutes.

COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Second.

PRESIDENT TERRY: I have moved to approve the minutes of the Commission's meetings held on May 28th. Vice President Rubi Navarijo has seconded. Is there any debate on the motion?

(NO RESPONSE.)

PRESIDENT TERRY: Hearing none, we will move to a vote. Those in favor of adopting the motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting held on May 28th, please say aye.

(CHORUS OF AYES.)

PRESIDENT TERRY: Are there any opposed?

(NO RESPONSE.)

PRESIDENT TERRY: The ayes have it. We have one abstention for the record. The ayes have it, and the motion carries.

Tonight, we will welcome two new commissioners to the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, Angelique Guzman and Anjanette Young.

Commissioner Guzman and Commissioner Young were selected to fill the vacancies that were created when Commissioner Aaron Gottlieb and Commissioner Abierre Minor's terms on the Commission ended.

Under the CCPSA ordinance, vacancies on the Commission trigger a formal selection process. First, a nominating committee made up of 22 District Councilors, one appointed from each of Chicago's police districts, put in application -- put out an application, reviewed, and interviewed candidates, and on March 12th, the Committee nominated at least two candidates for each vacancy.

On April 9th, Mayor Johnson selected Ms. Guzman and Ms. Young from the list of nominees. They were confirmed by the full City Council at the May meeting.

I would like now to give both of the new commissioners an opportunity to introduce themselves.

COMMISSIONER YOUNG: Good evening, everyone. First of all, I would like to say thank you to all of you who are here and for those who spoke

highly of their personal knowledge of what I bring to this Commission. Thank you for being here. Thank you for giving those kind words.

Many of you know, I am a licensed clinical social worker. That's my background, and so it gives me both a professional knowledge base of working with families and individuals in the community. My focus primarily has been mental health, so I am hoping to use my professional background to inform the decisions that are made and how I can add to this Commission.

I currently live in the Morgan Park community, 21st Ward, 22nd Police District. And so I am happy to meet my District Council person for the first time tonight. I'm happy that he is welcoming me into this space. Understanding that collaboration is needed across all platforms, so I'm happy to know that he accepts me, and we are going to do some work together. And my goals for being on this Commission is really to bring insight and some trust from the community.

I'm hoping to strengthen oversight and accountability as it relates to how we look

at things, how we engage police policy, how we look at bringing the community voice to the table, so I'm excited to be here and thank you, all.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Guzman.

COMMISSIONER GUZMAN: Hello, everybody. Thank you for being here and thank you for the kind words.

So I grew up in Albany Park. I'm Latina, and I am a part of the 17th Police District. So that is my District Councilor I want -- I applied to serve on the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability because I wanted to make sure we hold police accountable, but we also provide different solutions for public safety that doesn't just include police interactions.

So I'm very excited with the work that's being done. But, yeah, I look forward to serving on the Commission. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you, both. We're excited to have you.

Our next order of business will be reports and updates. So we'll start with the

workforce allocation and community policing.

Our work with CPD on the workforce allocation and community policing is ongoing. At our July meeting, CPD will provide an update on its workforce allocation work and its community policing assessment. This meeting will give us an opportunity to ask questions about this important work that should have a big impact in our communities across the City. We will learn more about the plans to make changes to the CPD workforce allocation and the Department's approach to community policing. We will discuss how the community will play a role in the development of those plans and we look forward to that discussion.

I also want to add that Vice President Rubi Navarijo and Commissioner Piemonte are both serving as representatives for the Commission with the community policing initiative that's happening with the department.

And so I will now turn it over to Commissioner Wortham with a brief update on traffic stops.

COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Good evening. As many

of you know, but for the benefit of anyone who does not, over a year ago now, it was recommended that the issue of traffic stops policy with Chicago Police Department be added to the Consent Decree. In that vein, the Policy Working Group of the Commission has been working with the Chicago Police Department, the Illinois Attorney General's Office, the Independent Monitor, to come up with an agreement regarding the stipulation to add the issue of traffic stops to the Consent Decree.

That work is ongoing. We don't have a very substantive update since our last meeting, other than the Commission continues to engage in that work, and to the extent that we are able to share about that work, we will do that. And, again, just for those -- I know we have two new commissioners. For those who are here for the first time, there are confidentiality requirements related to those negotiations, so there are certain things we won't be able to share.

To the extent we are able to share what we are doing on the work, we welcome and do

that for both the Commission and the public. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you, Commissioner Wortham.

Now we will turn it over to Vice President Rubi Navarijo for an update on the Noncitizen Advisory Council.

COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you, appreciate everybody coming today.

As you all may have known from our previous meetings, we have a Noncitizen Advisory Council that is mandated by ordinance. That is a volunteer body comprised of residents of Chicago who advise the Commission on public safety issues that relate to the immigrant community.

They have been a tremendous help, at least for me as a commissioner these past several months. And an example of what they help with was recommendations for questions at our last meeting in June.

So we are looking to recruit more people from different areas of the City, different organizations, different walks life. If you are interested in joining, we have a QR

code and flyers with QR codes in the front.

A staff member will be more than happy to speak with you about it, and we will continue our work making sure that we're staying aligned with our strategic priority as it relates to ICE, CPD, and CPD involvement. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you, Vice President Rubi Navarijo.

Now, we will take a moment to invite -- I would like now to invite the Community Commission for Public Safety Accountability's Director of Public Affairs, Nicole Garcia, as well as Deputy Director of the District Council, Charlie Isaacs, up to the podium.

Director Garcia and Deputy Chief Isaacs are to make a presentation on the upcoming District Council elections and provide information on how to get involved.

DIRECTOR GARCIA: Good evening. Good evening, everyone. My name is Nicky Garcia. I am Director of Public Affairs for Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability.

Tonight -- we can go ahead and jump

to the next slide. Tonight we're going to be providing an overview of Chicago's District Councils, and share information about the upcoming election, which will be taking place February 2027. And so part of this presentation, what our goal here is is to really share information about what District Councils are, what they do, how District Councils impact their communities, and, of course, how to participate in this upcoming election.

So whether you are hearing about District Councils for the first time -- I know some of you in the room are already deeply engaged with this work -- we hope that you learn some new information and can bring this back to your neighbors, your friends, your family so they can be involved and informed. I will take it over -- actually, next slide. Sorry. That's me also.

As I mentioned, some of the folks in the room have been deeply engaged with the Commission's work, but to provide some historical context about our organization, for those who are listening in for the first time, I'll start by

saying this, in 2021, City Council created our department which brought a new model for police oversight, accountability, and public safety to Chicago, and that system created our commissioners that you see up here, which is the seven-member body that oversees the Chicago Police Department, COPA, and the Police Board, and they also created the District Councils which are locally elected public bodies that work to address district-level public safety and policing.

And while they do serve different functions, both were designed to ensure that communities have a voice in public safety and in policing across the City.

Now I'll turn it over to Charlie.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR ISAACS: Hey, everybody. So my name is Charlie Isaacs. I am Deputy Director for the District Councils, and I just want to extend congratulations once again to our new commissioners, Guzman and Young.

A lot of work went into the nomination process, and I'm sure the two of you are going to do an amazing job. Thank you so

much for stepping up to service.

My role with -- the Deputy Director role for District Councils is to ensure that our District Councils across the City have as much support, staffing, and advising that they need to succeed.

It's a role that my team and I are hugely privileged and honored to hold.

District Councils are a really exciting and groundbreaking part of our new form of government here where we have locally elected public bodies that provide a real voice for people on issues of public safety and policing.

So what are District Councilors? A lot of you already know what District Councilors are, but we're going to go over it, and I hope you extend this information out to your communities, families, and friends, because we really want to make sure there's strong awareness about what this role is, why it is important, and the opportunity to run for it.

District Councilors, like I said, are elected by and accountable to the people of the police district. They're not accountable and

chosen by City Council or the Mayor or anybody else. They're chosen by the people. They are chosen on the same ballot that chooses the Mayor and City alders.

That's really important because when it comes to the work of District Councilors, it's all about making sure the communities who chose those people to stand up and serve as District Councils, that they are going back to serve those people and ensure those people's voices are being lifted up and heard.

The District Councils, what do they do when they take that stand and are representing people? The things that they focus on, they make sure to bring and build community. Bring more people into spaces to talk about the issues that really matter to all of us, public safety, community policing, police accountability, and building out the community police relationship.

So that's what District Councils are.

Next slide. So just to be clear about it, Chicago is made up of 22 police districts. Each district has its own police

station, its own police commander, its own police patrol, and now its own District Council elected to work with the police in that district to address community concerns.

So that means that we have 22 District Councils across the City. Each one three members.

Next slide. So why were District Councils created. The idea about District Councils is pretty simple. It is the idea if you have more community involved when this comes to the work of public safety, if you have more community involved when it comes to the shape of policing, it is going to improve public policing. It is going to improve policing, and District Councils are a huge way to ensure at the grass roots level, at the neighborhood level that we are able to generate that in Chicago.

They do a wide range of different things. They bring more people into the conversation around public safety. They create a forum. This is really special. They provide a public forum every month in every single neighborhood -- not neighborhood, police district

across the City, so that people don't have to venture all the way downtown to the Loop to talk about what's on their minds. They can go to their local District Council to talk about what safety issues are going on, what policing problems are going on, what opportunities are there to work more closely with stakeholders, organizations, and police leadership in the district.

They also work to build out that connection with the community and the police to ensure that there's clear understanding, to ensure that concerns are being raised up, and that there's transparency of information from the police.

They also work on ensuring that there's accountability for having good public safety in the neighborhoods of the districts.

So it's a great feedback where District Councils have a meeting. They hear from their constituents about safety concerns, issues that they've run into it, and they can work with the police in finding ways for how to address those concerns and how to address those issues.

But not just that. District Councils -- as Nicky was pointing out, District Councils have a role in helping to elevate all of those issues they pick up across the City from every single corner and bring it up into a citywide opportunity to improve how we do public safety across Chicago, to improve how we have policing and police accountability apparatus for Chicago.

We do that by helping to determine the members that sit on this Commission and to provide recommendations, priorities, and suggestions to this Commission.

Next slide.

Actually, next slide. You got ahead of me.

What do District Councils do exactly? I'm saying a lot of things, but you want to know concrete. Right? Well, it's a ton of things. There's so many activities that District Councils do. Every district is different. Every District Council is different. Every District Councilor is different with the things they believe are important for achieving their broad role under the City ordinance that

created them.

But the central thing that is unifying for all District Councilors, it is about listening to the people of the police district, engaging with community stakeholders, and making sure that those concerns of people who used to not feel like they have a place to bring concerns, now they have a place to bring their concerns.

So with that listening, with that engagement, and with that elevation of concerns to fix issues at the district and City-wide level, District Councilors are able to make a profound change in terms of the direction of public safety.

Sometimes we may not be noticing yet, but in our office, a lot of times, every day, from my vantage point at least, I can see changes happening. I can see the arc toward a more community-driven way that we do policing and public safety in Chicago.

District Councils do a number of specific things. They hold, like I said, these monthly public meetings, and they are very

special meetings because they are right there in the districts, and it provides a space where, as our City ordinance says that created this organization, it is a space for not just people to come and just hear updates and so forth. It is a space for people in the district to come to raise and work to address issues. I always like to highlight that part, work to address. It is not just about raising issues, because I think a lot of people have had that experience of raising an issue, then they never hear back. No follow-up, no solutions.

The idea of the District Council is it creates a space for actually working to address the issues.

Beyond that, District Councilors work across each month ahead of their meeting and afterwards holding events or attending meetings across the district to make sure they are reaching out to people. Not everybody is going to make it to the meeting, so they have to do that proactive outreach to engage with everybody.

They also work with local police leadership. They have an opportunity to meet at

least once a month with the leader of the local police leadership to bring up the issues they heard, to ask if there are any updates from the police the community needs to be aware of, and to make sure that there's clear understandings and opportunities for community policing initiatives.

They do work to develop those community policing programs in all shapes and sizes. The very fact that they are holding community meetings is a community policing initiative in a way. That's how I always believe.

They also work to promote restorative justice practices. Another thing outlined in the ordinance, promote restorative justice and other similar type of programs, and they've done this a whole variety of ways, from creating just a restorative space in their monthly meetings for people to come together to talk through issues, maybe trauma that they've gone through, to actually developing mediation programs and processes for police and community members to work through and solve problems, and

for community members to work together to resolve issues, to prevent escalations of violence.

And then when we moved toward how District Councilors specifically influence things at a Citywide level, District Councilors bring recommendations and input to the Commission. Every year they help to propose priorities for the Commission, to help give the Commission suggestions based on the issues across the City about what the Commission should focus on in the upcoming year, and they also help with the selection process for who stands on the Commission by nominating candidates that go to the Mayor.

So as you can see, there's a ton of things that a District Councilor does, and they're expected to do it around 20 hours a month for only a $500 stipend, but it is good work, it is honorable work and making a big difference across Chicago.

We have the receipts for that difference, too.

Next slide.

We have the receipts, too, because

these last four years, it's hard to describe how much progress we started to see with the work that District Councils have done. Day-to-day, sometimes it's hard to see, but after four years, we can see the difference. There's been so many conversations that have been generated across the City that used to not happen. They used to never happen, but now in every district there are people coming together every month to work to talk about how to make their community safer and how to make policing better.

Problem-solving is happening in these meetings. I've been -- people raise up and say, Hey, on my block there's this issue, and I'm not getting enough attention. And guess what? The next month they say, Hey, District Council, thank you. We were able to get that resolved. We had police send more people there, or we had a local organization come and provide some services. Whatever the solution is, we are actually seeing a lot of very like important changes happening at the personal level for people that means something for the individuals that are affected.

We are also creating spaces for more local voices to develop the goals and the policies that guide the Chicago Police Department.

District Councilors are talking with commissioners, engaging them, sending recommendation, sending priorities, and those things filter up into the work that the Commission does to help ensure that the Superintendent of Police Department, as well as the head of COPA and the Police Board are moving in the right direction when this comes to what the City deserves.

But let's talk about the big victories. Right now you have a brilliant Commission right here that was helped selected by District Councils across the City.

Our Interim Commission did a wonderful and amazing job creating a foundation, and they were selected by the City Council, but now we have a full Commission that has been established by District Councils.

District Councils have also put forward a significant set of recommendations for

how to reform how the Chicago Police Department does district strategic planning. They came up with a set of recommendations through hard work, community engagement, engagement with CPD, research, and it led to a set of recommendations that had the vast majority of District Councilors signing on in support of it.

They also have promoted alternative response initiatives from how parking enforcement happens in their neighborhood to the expansion of care, so that mental health approaches can be done when they're more appropriate than the conventional policing approach.

District Councils have been behind the scenes doing an incredible amount of work and meetings and signature collecting and all sorts of other steps to help ensure that we're moving in the right path when this comes to alternative responses.

And they've helped to establish -- and I'm looking at one of the District Councilors who is a hero on this one -- establish a COPA mediation program that has been developed with COPA and with District Councils to ensure that

when you have issues that are coming up, issues that involve like a complaint or a concern about something that a police officer has done or that the police have done, that there is a mediation process where you have trained mediators helping to resolve those issues. And that's something that lead to a Commission goal that led to a new program at COPA.

So there you see the difference, where a local District Councilor gathered other counselors and presented a priority to the Commission that led to a new goal, that led to a new direction for COPA. That's the difference that our system makes. Right there. And that didn't happen before. But now we have community-driven processes and policies where voices like all of yours and all your communities come to meetings and have that kind of an influence.

So, you know, it's incredibly -- it makes me feel incredibly proud to see how much the first cohort of District Councilors have achieved from 2023 to 2027. And we're not done, hint, hint.

Any Councilors in the room or watching on Zoom, the term is not over. We still have many more achievements to achieve. But it's amazing to think about how much we're probably going to be achieving in the next four years, when the next set of District Councilors come in with the election coming up next year, from 2027 to 2031.

Think about how much we can achieve in all our districts. Think about how many things you can all achieve with your elected voices in the room talking about public safety and policing issues.

With that, I will turn it back to Nicky, so she can talk more about what we're talking about.

DIRECTOR GARCIA: Thanks, Charlie. So I know running for office can be intimidating, but District Councilors, they come from a wide range of background and experiences.

I think it's important to note that there is no requirement that someone have a background in law enforcement, in public policy.

This is an opportunity for anyone

that cares about public safety; that cares about police accountability to get involved.

I want to talk a little bit about what you can expect from this role. For starters, it is a four-year term. So anyone choosing to run for office, that term will begin in May 2027. This may vary district to district, but it's typically 20, 20 plus hours per month in terms of activity, so whether that is meeting with community members, meeting with community organizations, attending public meetings.

In addition to that, it requires a lot of community engagement, collaboration with residents, stakeholders, and, of course, your fellow District Councilors.

And then like Charlie mentioned, it is a $500 stipend that you receive, and we would love to see that grow. Hint, hint. Let's talk to City Council about making our budgets for our commissioners and our District Councilors expand. That's what you can expect from the role.

In terms of eligibility requirements, like all candidates running for office, you must be a registered voter. You must

reside within the police district for one year prior to the election. You must meet all the requirements established by law and by the Chicago Board of Elections. The requirements are very specific, so we encourage you to consult with an election attorney or with the Chicago Board of Elections to ensure your eligibility, and then, of course, you need to submit the required nominating petitions and filing paperwork.

We can go ahead to the next slide. Before your name can appear on the ballot, you must complete the nominating petition process. So that is the first step if you are looking to run for office. And a nominating petition is essentially a document that you use to collect signatures from your neighbors that live in the district, and that shows or demonstrates the community support for you to appear on the ballot.

So it is a requirement that you collect -- and it can be 250 signatures or .05 -- or .5 of the voting -- of the folks that voted in the previous election -- presidential election.

So don't quote me on that, but it is typically around 250 signatures to qualify. You will begin collecting those signatures starting July 28th, and then you will file your petitions.

So all of the signatures that you've collected from July to October, you'll submit those between October 19th and October 26th, and then your name, if eligible, and after they review your signatures, your name will appear on the ballot come February 2027. So that election date is February 23rd, 2027.

And the Chicago Board of Election, they establish all the petition requirements, filing procedures, and election deadlines.

So if you don't mind turning to the next slide. We encourage you to get more information about the petition process. And if you are interested, you can go to Chicagoelections.gov, but if you also want to learn more about the DC role, CCPSA staff is available to talk to you a little bit more about the experiences. District Councilors across the City are available to talk to you about their experiences with the role if anyone is interested

in running.

One thing I also want to add is that over the next few months, the CCPSA will be conducting community engagement and a marketing campaign, so you will see a lot more information on our website. We will be launching a new web page in the coming week.

In addition to that, you've probably seen this pamphlet up front. It has more information about the District Council role. There is a QR code to our website to where, again, you can get more information.

But that's all I have for you folks. If anyone has any questions, we're happy to answer questions, or we can talk offline.

PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you, Director Garcia and Deputy Director Isaacs.

Commissioners, do you all have any questions?

Okay. Thank you, both. We will now move on to adjournment. To connect with the Commission via social media, you can find us at FacebookChicagoCCPSA or search Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability.

Instagram at CCPSA_Chicago. The same for Twitter or X. And on YouTube, at ChicagoCCPSA.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be Thursday, July 30th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Copernicus Center. Location: 5216 West Lawrence Avenue.

I would like to thank you all for joining us tonight. We do hope to see you on July 30th, and we hope you will stay engaged and encourage other people you know to join us in this work.

This meeting is now adjourned, everyone. Thank you all for coming out.

(Proceedings adjourned at 8:24 p.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

Re: COMMUNITY COMMISSION for PUBLIC SAFETY and ACCOUNTABILITY
PUBLIC MEETING
June 25, 2026

I, MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, C.S.R., do hereby certify that the foregoing Report of Proceedings was recorded stenographically by me and was reduced to computerized transcript under my direction, and that the said transcript constitutes a true record.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand of office at Chicago, Illinois, this 14 of July 2026.

_____
MAUREEN A. WOODMAN,CSR
License No. 084.002740