

City of Chicago
District Council Meeting Minutes 018
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES

District Council Meeting Minutes

Date: March 23, 2026

Time: 12:35 PM – 1:30 PM

Location: Near North Public Library, 310 W. Division St., Chicago, IL

Format: Hybrid (In-person and Zoom)

CPD Representatives

- Commander Bielfeldt
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Attendance

- 28 attendees in person
 - 10 Virtual attendees
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Attendance & Quorum

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

District Council Member Name	Attendance		
Chair: Kenya Brad Kessler	Present: ☒	Remote: ☐	Absent: ☐
Nominator: Robert Johnsson	Present: ☒	Remote: ☐	Absent: ☐
Community Engagement: Karen Kane	Present: ☒	Remote: ☐	Absent: ☐

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

Call to Order & Roll Call

- Councilor Kessler welcomed all attendees to the meeting
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Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Special meeting minutes, February 9, approved
 - February 24 meeting minutes pending approval
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Public Comment

- Five attendees raised key community concerns
 - **CARE Program (Mental Health Response)**
 - Not yet active in the district; expected citywide expansion
 - Request for a future presentation
 - **Quality-of-Life Issues (Loitering & Disorder)**
 - Concerns: noise, public urination, suspected drug activity
 - Confusion regarding 911 vs. 311 and response delays
 - **CTA Safety Concerns (Red Line)**
 - Reported unsatisfactory 911 response
 - Ongoing concerns about transit safety
 - **Narcotics Enforcement Clarity**
 - Questions about police authority to disperse groups
 - Concerns about transparency and consistency
 - **Youth Programming & Violence Prevention**
 - Build Arena nonprofit introduced
 - Highlighted funding gaps and requested support
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Citywide Commission – Youth Mandate Discussion

- Commission responsible for selecting the CPD Superintendent
 - Ordinance requires 2 of 3 appointees to be youth (ages 18–24)
 - **Discussion Highlights:**
 - Balancing youth representation with experience
 - Consideration of revisiting the ordinance
 - Interest in community input (survey/town hall)
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Neighborhood & Public Safety Updates

- **Waymo & Delivery Devices**

- Privacy and sidewalk congestion concerns
 - FOIA request initiated, presentation forthcoming
 - **Retail Safety Meeting**
 - Scheduled for mid-April with retailers and State's Attorney
 - **Protest Activity**
 - April meeting to include protest and permit data
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CTA Safety & 911 Data

- Concerns about CTA violence and response times
 - **Planned Actions:**
 - Invite CTA Security leadership
 - Review of Zero Eyes AI technology
 - Present mental health-related 911 data
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District Commander Bielfeldt Report

- **St. Patrick's Day Events**
 - Large crowds, minimal serious incidents
 - Issues: underage drinking and congestion
 - **Crime Trends**
 - Armed robbery pattern: arrests made
 - Gang-related shooting under investigation
 - **Narcotics Enforcement**
 - 9 designated hotspots
 - Enforcement requires direct observation
 - **CTA Policing**
 - Managed by specialized transit units
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Juvenile Justice Pilot Program

- New Cook County initiative
 - Alternative to detention for youth offenders
 - Focus on keeping youth in school
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Upcoming Meetings

- Next Regular Meeting: April 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM

- Location: TBD
- **Potential Special Meeting:**
 - Approve outstanding minutes
 - Continuing discussion on commission structure