

22ND DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Minutes from Public Meeting

- Meeting Type: Special
- Date: March 7, 2026
- Start Time: 12:45 PM
- Location: Kennedy King College, 740 W. 63rd Street, Building U, Chicago, IL 60621

Councilor Name	Role	Present
Patrick Kennedy	Chair	No
Carisa Parker	Nominating Committee Member	Yes
Lee Bielecki	Community Engagement Coordinator	Yes
Quorum met?		Yes

Public Comment

1. Brenda (004) asked for quiet and focus and requested a moment of reflection for Rev. Jesse Jackson’s family.
2. Ald. Vasquez (40th) thanked District Councilors, raised concerns about ICE–CPD issues, and offered committee support for further hearings.
3. Chris (014) opposed the proposed censure, arguing it is inappropriate for a situation he views as political disagreement rather than substantiated misconduct.
4. Anna (020) praised restorative justice progress and supported both censure and resignation, stating the conduct in question was inappropriate toward an appointed Commissioner.
5. Alex (002) reported on lessons from New York’s community councils and encouraged exploring similar vacancy-filling authority to strengthen accountability and public safety.
6. Veronica (024) promoted a petition for an independent special prosecutor on immigration-related harms and reiterated her prior support for censure, referencing her direct experience.
7. Jenny (019) spoke on behalf of the CARE expansion working group, urging attendance at upcoming meetings to support stronger mental-health response capacity and funding.

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8. Marilyn (024) supported censure and removal, stating the councilor has not taken accountability and emphasizing racial dynamics in how the issue is perceived.
9. Carmelita (015) reflected on the group's shared work, urging members to stay grounded in their common purpose and remain productive in the final year.
10. Elianne Bahena (010) updated the group on the welcoming city working group, voiced concern about lack of urgency on ICE–CPD issues, shared personal experiences, and requested clear guidance and hearings with subject-matter experts and leadership

I. Discussion of Trends and Concerns Across the Districts

The planned discussion covered four parts aimed at: (1) identifying intersections among trends and concerns; (2) understanding long-term impacts if left unresolved; (3) determining responsibility and first steps; and (4) identifying ways to bring next steps back to constituents. Due to unexpected disruptions*, the group was unable to fully explore, synthesize, or brainstorm as intended.

1. Intersections Among Trends and Concerns

Prompts: How do trends and concerns interact? In what ways do they impact each other?

Councilors highlighted strong links between police accountability and community safety, citing ongoing misconduct issues, incomplete Consent Decree progress, and inadequate oversight. Broader safety concerns also surfaced, including transit incidents, immigration-related harms, and community-level threats tied to institutional gaps. Many emphasized the need for structural solutions, such as ordinances, improved reform mechanisms, stronger cross-ward coordination, and more robust citywide systems—reflecting a belief that existing approaches are insufficient.

2. Impacts if These Issues Remain Unresolved

Prompts: If this doesn't get healed, what are the long-term impacts? What are we worried about?

Councilors described fragmented relationships among District Councils, CPD, CTA, alder offices, and other agencies, noting that siloed communication harms long-term progress. They named persistent community trauma—fear, PTSD, unresolved safety concerns, and poor responsiveness from institutions—as a major consequence of inaction. Many expressed concern that accountability failures and unaddressed

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harm have become normalized, further eroding trust. Councilors emphasized the need for stronger, more transparent inter-agency relationships, while acknowledging barriers to achieving that level of coordination.

Responsibility and First Steps Toward Solutions

Prompt: What is our role as District Councils?

Several councilors expressed pride and clarity about the DC role, emphasizing persistence, relationship-building, and pushing institutions rather than waiting for formal invitations. They described the DCs as facilitators of community voice, using available tools—meetings, petitions, resolutions—to elevate concerns and apply pressure. Many emphasized collaboration across working groups and agencies, grounding efforts in both community safety and accountability, and supporting fact-based dialogue. There was broad recognition that systemic change is slow, requiring patience and consistent long-term engagement.

4. Bringing This Work Back to Constituents

Prompt: What are ways to take this conversation back to districts?

Councilors proposed building durable systems and frameworks so future DC members can continue the work. They discussed defining shared issues that resonate across districts—such as pedestrian safety or public-space concerns—while remaining responsive to local differences. Strengthening collaboration among District Councils, forming local partnerships and issue-based work groups, and leveraging aligned alders and community organizations were identified as key strategies. Councilors expressed interest in expanding public-safety conversations to include alternative responses and non-policing strategies. They also emphasized celebrating successes to build trust, and highlighted the need for internal coaching, reflection, and regular assessment to strengthen overall capacity.

*The Nominating Committee lost quorum earlier in the day and could not complete its vote before the Quarterly Meeting. When quorum was re-established later, the Committee resumed its suspended meeting, requiring its members to leave the Quarterly Meeting and causing that meeting to be cut short.

II. Final Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting is on Saturday, June 27, 2026, 10:00 AM, location tbd.

Meeting ended at 2:15PM