



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2026

### MEDIA CONTACT:

Nicole Garcia

[Nicole.Garcia@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Nicole.Garcia@cityofchicago.org)

## SIX CANDIDATES SELECTED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO FILL THREE UPCOMING VACANCIES ON THE COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CCPSA)

The District Council Nominating Committee has nominated six candidates for three upcoming vacancies on the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability. The vacancies will occur in June when Vice President Angel Rubi Navarijo and Commissioners Aaron Gottlieb and Abierre Minor reach the end of their terms.

The nominees, listed in alphabetical order, are:

- **Angelique Guzman** (North Side and youth representative)
- **Hamza Jilani** (South Side and youth representative)
- **Darrion Johnson** (South Side and youth representative)
- **Rebecca Levin** (North Side resident)
- **Javier Vasquez** (North Side and youth representative)
- **Anjanette Young** (South Side resident)

Under the CCPSA Ordinance, vacancies on the Commission trigger a formal selection process led by the Nominating Committee, a group of twenty-two District Councilors, one appointed from each of Chicago's District Councils. The Nominating Committee must nominate at least two candidates for each vacancy and submit those nominees to the Mayor, who then appoints one nominee for each vacancy. All appointments must be confirmed by the Chicago City Council.

"The Nominating Committee approached this work with a deep sense of responsibility to ensure the Commission reflects the communities it serves," said Elianne Bahena, 10th District Councilor and member of the Nominating Committee. "Over the past several months, we worked to identify candidates who not only meet the qualifications established by Ordinance, but who also bring a clear vision for collaboration with District Councils, a strong commitment to police accountability, and a focus on centering the voices of those most impacted by public safety and policing issues in our city."



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The CCPSA Ordinance requires that two members of the seven-member Commission are between the ages of 18-24 at the time of appointment. The Ordinance also requires geographic representation, with two Commissioners residing on the South Side, two on the West Side, and two on the North Side. Because the three outgoing Commissioners currently occupy the Commission's two North Side seats and two youth seats, the Nominating Committee was required to provide the Mayor with sufficient nominees to ensure that these requirements can continue to be met.

The sixty-day nomination process began on January 7 and included a citywide search for qualified candidates. The Nominating Committee conducted extensive outreach, particularly among North Side communities and youth organizations to raise awareness of the opportunity to apply. The process resulted in more than fifty qualified applications. The Nominating Committee evaluated anonymous versions of the applications based on the qualifications outlined in the Ordinance, selected at least four candidates to interview for each vacancy, and conducted interviews using a community-informed rubric.

Since the election of District Councils in 2023, the Nominating Committee has led multiple nomination processes to identify and recommend qualified candidates to serve on the Commission. In 2024, the Nominating Committee submitted nominees for all seven seats on the first-ever permanent Commission, replacing the interim Commission established in 2022. Later that year, the Nominating Committee also conducted a nomination process to fill a vacancy following the unexpected resignation of Commissioner Kelly Presley.

Below are brief biographies of the six nominees:

**Angelique Guzman** is a North Side resident and one of the candidates for the Commission's two youth seats. She is a senior at Mather High School, where she serves as class vice president. Angelique has extensive community engagement experience, particularly through her work as president of the North River Commission's Youth Council, where she advocates for equitable economic development, sustainability initiatives, and community wellness. She also interns in her 40th Ward aldermanic office, where she has gained deep insight into the needs of North Side neighborhoods. Angelique has stood out as a youth leader in organizing communities concerned about federal immigration enforcement.

**Hamza Jilani** is a South Side resident and one of the candidates for the Commission's two youth seats. As a policy analyst at Civic Consulting Alliance, he provides pro-bono consulting services to government and civic organizations. Hamza previously served as an intern in the administration of former Mayor Lori Lightfoot, where he worked on issues related to economic and neighborhood development. He also serves on the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission's Youth Advisory Board, where he advocates for justice-impacted young people. Hamza has also



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

worked as a health justice organizer with Southside Together and as a coordinator for the Treatment Not Trauma campaign. In 2024, Hamza earned a Bachelor's Degree in economics and political science, with a minor in environmental and urban studies, from the University of Chicago.

**Darrion Johnson** is a South Side resident and one of the candidates for the Commission's two youth seats. He is a youth organizer and co-founder of Good Kids Mad City--Englewood. Over the past five years, Darrion has helped organize young people in Englewood and collaborated with organizations such as the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP). His commitment to youth engagement is reflected in the campaigns he has championed, including advocacy for the Peace Book Ordinance and other youth-centered violence reduction strategies. Darrion graduated with honors from Innovations High School in 2023.

**Rebecca Levin** is a North Side resident and community organizer with more than twenty years of experience working on public health and safety issues. She currently serves as the Vice President of Policy at Treatment Alternatives for Stronger Communities. Rebecca is also a member of the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice and Illinois Harm Reduction and Recovery Coalition. She holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University.

**Javier Vasquez** is a North Side resident and one of the candidates for the Commission's two youth seats. He works for Chicago Public Schools as a special education classroom assistant. Javier has collaborated with community organizations like the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation, helping to strengthen the relationships between local businesses and neighborhood residents. He has received various academic and service awards, including the Illinois Promise Joseph Pedott Spirit Award and the Marks Award for Academic Excellence and Peace and Justice. Javier earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2025.

**Anjanette Young** is a South Side resident and a licensed clinical social worker, clinician, and community advocate with over twenty years of experience. She is the founder of Café Social Work, an initiative focused on increasing the representation of minority and underrepresented individuals in the social work profession. Her clinical experience includes medical social work at the University of Illinois Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children, where she supported individuals and families through mental health interventions, crisis management, and clinical assessments. Following a wrongful and botched police raid on her home in 2019, Anjanette became a leading advocate for police reform in Chicago, particularly around the Chicago Police Department's no-knock policy. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work and has held roles in various mental health organizations.



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Nominating Committee has submitted the six nominees to Mayor Brandon Johnson for consideration. By Ordinance, the mayor has 30 days to review the candidates and select three nominees from the list provided by the Nominating Committee. A detailed report on the nomination process will be published in the coming weeks. To learn more about the nomination process and the work of the Nominating Committee, visit the CCPSA website at [ccpsa.chicago.gov](http://ccpsa.chicago.gov).

###