



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

RESOLUTION NO. NC-2026-01:

RESOLUTION TO CENSURE 22ND DISTRICT COUNCILOR LEE BIELECKI

ADOPTED MARCH 4, 2026

WHEREAS, the Nominating Committee is a public body comprised of one member of each District Council, to fill existing and anticipated vacancies on the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (“Commission”) by nominating candidates for the Mayor’s consideration for appointment; and

WHEREAS, members of the Nominating Committee are entrusted with sensitive applicant information and are expected, and have agreed, to uphold a fair, transparent and impartial nominations process, to follow established procedures and staff guidance, and to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains public trust and protects the safety and privacy of applicants; and

WHEREAS, in May 2023, the 22nd District Council appointed Lee Bielecki to serve as its representative on the Nominating Committee; and

WHEREAS, in January 2026, the Nominating Committee initiated a nominations process to fill three anticipated vacancies on the Commission, with a vote on candidate nominations scheduled for March 7, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Code of Chicago Section 2-80-040(c) requires that at least two Commissioners shall be residents of the North Side, at least two shall be residents of the West Side, and at least two shall be residents of the South Side, in all cases maintaining residence for 365 days immediately preceding the date of their appointment; and

WHEREAS, the three anticipated vacancies for 2026 include two seats that must be reserved for North Side candidates; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, the Nominating Committee held a meeting to determine which applicants would advance to interviews; and

WHEREAS, during the meeting, Councilor Bielecki questioned whether one applicant’s claim of North Side residency was truthful; and

WHEREAS, the Nominating Committee's support staff informed the Committee that staff would verify any geographic and residency qualifications in question consistent with established Committee practice and division of responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, following adjournment of the February 17th meeting, at some time after 9:30 PM, Councilor Bielecki independently traveled to the residential address listed on the applicant's application materials in an effort to verify the applicant's residency; and

WHEREAS, Councilor Bielecki questioned a building employee at the applicant's stated residential address regarding whether the applicant resided at that address and stated that he was seeking to determine whether the applicant legitimately resided on the North Side for the purposes of the nomination process; and

WHEREAS, the applicant subsequently emailed Nominating Committee members, Commission leaders, and staff expressing significant concerns for their safety and questioning why a member of the Nominating Committee appeared at their personal residence; and

WHEREAS, Councilor Bielecki responded to the applicant by admitting that he had visited their building following the Committee's February 17th meeting; and

WHEREAS, Councilor Bielecki's actions were not authorized by the Committee, were inconsistent with staff guidance and the established practices of the Committee regarding the handling of personal applicant information and verification of qualifications, and constituted an improper independent use of applicant information outside of established processes; and

WHEREAS, the integrity of the Nominating Committee's work depends upon maintaining public trust and ensuring that applicants are not subjected to intimidation, misuse of personal information, or actions that could reasonably be perceived as an invasion of privacy, harassment, or intimidation; and

WHEREAS, Councilor Bielecki has since resigned from the Nominating Committee, and the 22nd District Council has appointed a new representative to serve on the Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nominating Committee hereby formally **censures Councilor Lee Bielecki** for abuse of his position and access to Commission applicant information, for deviating from established practices of the Committee and staff guidance regarding verification of applicant qualifications, and for engaging in conduct that could reasonably be perceived as an invasion of privacy, harassment, or intimidation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Councilor Bielecki's conduct was inappropriate, unacceptable, and inconsistent with the standards expected of a public official of the City of Chicago and a member of the Nominating Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nominating Committee directs its support staff to review, and if necessary, recommend formal procedures regarding verification of applicant

qualifications, member conduct, and handling of applicant information, and to present those recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nominating Committee expresses its apologies to the applicant for the distress and concern caused by Councilor Bielecki's conduct.

ADOPTED this 4th day of March 2026, by a vote of the Nominating Committee.

Signatures:

Adrienne Johnson, District Council 001

Marquinn McDonald, District Council 002

Gloria Jenkins, District Council 004

Aisha Humphries, District Council 006

Dion McGill, District Council 007

Al Cacciottolo, District Council 008

Elianne Bahena, District Council 010

Michelle D. Page, District Council 012

Ashley Vargas, District Council 014

Arewa Najm-Ekua, District Council 015

Beth Rochford, District Council 017

Robert Johnson, District Council 018

Sam Schoenburg, District Council 019

Darrell Dacres, District Council 020

Carisa Parker, District Council 022

Marilyn Pagán-Banks, District Council 024

Angelica Green, District Council 025