

15TH DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

15th District Council Public Meeting Minutes

(Minutes-Aligned Version)

Date: May 21, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: 5900 W. Iowa

Format: In-person with Zoom supplement

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at **5:47 PM**
- Roll call conducted
- **Quorum established** (All three councilors present)
- Councilor Earls, Councilor Rutues, Councilor Ekua (In-person)

2. Approval of Remote Attendance

- Zoom use acknowledged
- No objections raised
- **Remote/Zoom format approved by consensus**

3. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda reviewed by Council
- Motion made and seconded
- **Agenda approved as presented**

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4. Approval of Past Minutes

- Review of **March 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- Review of **March 7, 2026 Quarterly Meeting Minutes**
- Motion to approve minutes by Councilor Rutues, second by Councilor Earls.
- **Minutes were approved.**

5. Public Comment

- Reflection and condolences for Jesse Jackson family.
- Praise/concern for counselors, restorative justice, censure and resignation issues.
- Immigration-related harms; calls for an independent special prosecutor.
- Need for greater urgency on ICPD issues; updates from working groups.

6. Public Discussion on Trends & Concerns

Community Safety & Public Comment

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- **Recent Street Takeover:** Noted events on LaPorte, Mayfield, Maypole, involving large youth gatherings, leading at one point to a shooting (domestic in nature; not random).
- **Chronic nuisance blocks:** Longstanding issues with specific families sustained over years.
- **Police Response Challenges:** Community frustration with lack of actionable response (“hands tied”); homeowners receive tickets for moving cars to alleys; reluctance among residents to organize or intervene.

7. Reports from Councilors

Deondre Rutues (Community Engagement)

- **Community Mediation/Justice Alliance:**
 - o Developing a community-based mediation program (launch planned for September).
 - o Structure: Community member, police officer, and councilor form mediation panel.
 - o Training: 80–110 hours covering mediation, truth healing, racial trauma, restorative justice.
 - o Goal: Handle low-level disputes outside court/COAPA process, with DC tracking.

Arewa Najm-Ekua (Nominator)

- **Commissioner/Youth Nominations:**
 - o 70+ applicants; narrowed to six for mayor.
 - Final names: Angelique Guzman, Hamas Jelani, Darion Johnson, Rebecca Levine, Javier Vasquez, Angena Young.
 - o Mayor selected: Angelique Guzman, Janae Young; remaining north side seat to be filled by fall.
- Pedestrian Safety Initiative:

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- o Coordinating upcoming community forum on pedestrian safety (late June or early July).
- o Collaboration with public safety task force chairs.
- o Possible “pedestrian safety toolkit” development targeting young people (e.g., scooters, road rules).

Carmelita Earls (Outgoing Chair)

- Recognition: Outgoing Chair formally acknowledged Isaiah Brooks for exceptional support; suggested he “needs a raise.”
- Reflections: Expressed pride in Council’s progress, the unique citywide reputation of District 15, and importance of compliance/awareness in police interactions.
- **Other Announcements:**
 - o Rock the Block Blow Up: City-sponsored youth activation, May 22, 9 pm–midnight.
 - o Job & Resource Fair: May 23, 11 am–2 pm, 600 block of Laurel (over 25 employers, hiring on the spot).
 - o WTTW Townhall: May 26, 2026, Thalia Hall, “Policing and Public Trust.”
 - o Community Commission Public Meeting: May 28, 6:30 pm, Irish American Heritage Center.
 - o Restorative Justice Conference: May 29, Beale Campus, 9 am–4 pm (registration required).
 - o Ride for Peace: Community biking event, May 30, 8 am–noon, starting at Mayfield and Iowa.
 - o Peoples Movement Assembly on Reparations: May 30, 11 am–3 pm, Out Space (Parkside).

9. Police Report and Crime Statistics (Retirement of Commander Carlin Morris)

No CPD present.

- **Commander participation:** Praised for consistent presence; expectation of continued involvement under new leadership.

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10. Presentations

- No presenter

11. Final Actions

Carmelita Earls stepped down after three years; Arewa Akua voted in as new chairperson (motion carried).

Motioned by Councilor Akua and seconded by Councilor Rutues

12. Final Announcements & Adjournment

- **Next District Council Meeting:** Tentatively June 11 or June 18 (pending ability to secure BIA attendance).
 - o **Location:** New Sound Cafe (Austin & Lake) or 5044 W Madison.
 - o **Guests:** Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) to present on accountability and processes.
 - o Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Rutues and seconded by Councilor Earls
 - o Meeting adjourned at 7:27PM