1ST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

DISTRICT COUNCIL 001
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular
Meeting Date: August 13 2026
Meeting Location: Old St. Patrick's Meeting Room, 711 W. Monroe, 2nd Floor
Meeting Start Time: 6:05 PM
Meeting Adjourned: 6:52 PM

Attendees: CPD Commander Mannion, Commision President Remel Terry & 8 Community Members

---

District Council Member Attendance

Name	Role	Present	Remote	Absent
Sarah Kammerer	Chair	☒	☐	☐
Adrienne Johnson	Nominator	☒	☐	☐
Jamie Brown	Community Engagement	☐	☐	☒

Quorum Met*: Yes

* In compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA), meetings require at least two members physically present to proceed.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the meeting held on July 14, 2026 were reviewed. With no content corrections, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment

Neighbor 1: Shared the positive qualities of living downtown like free concerts, museums and restaurants and desire for more engagement to improve the city's safety. This includes addressing homelessness and disruptive behaviors from people who visit downtown. There is nothing we can't accomplish together.

Discussion

The Councilors and Commission President outlined the purpose and community-driven nature of the superintendent search.

- Councilor Kammerer thanked attendees for joining the meeting and provided framing for the discussion: “Tonight is for hearing YOUR experiences so they can inform the Superintendent search, not digging into the search process. We want to hear from you. There is no need to be polished, just share. We don’t want to limit you and we also want to be respectful of people’s time. Do your best to be succinct. While you aren’t rushed, please create space for everyone.”
- The following questions were considered:
  - How do you experience downtown (do you live, work or play)?
  - Why do you love Chicago? Why did you choose to live here?
  - What is your experience with public safety downtown?
  - What do you want the net Superintendent to understand about this neighborhood?
  - How can downtown’s strengths support other parts of the city with different needs?
- Constituent 1 described moving downtown after retirement to experience city living. She enjoys living near the lakefront path, attending the theater, and volunteering regularly. While she generally feels safe, that sense of security can change quickly when she leaves the main tourist corridors. State Street, in particular, gives her pause. As an older adult, she feels intimidated by fast-moving cars as well as e-bikes and scooters traveling on sidewalks. In her work as a tour guide, she also worries about pedestrians and visitors feeling unsafe or intimidated.
- Constituent 2 echoed many of Constituent 1’s concerns. She generally feels safe downtown but said that this feeling is inconsistent—even during daylight hours. She raised concerns about State Street, interactions with people experiencing homelessness, and her experiences on the CTA. Because she relies on public transit, she is particularly concerned about smoking and drinking on trains and buses.
- Constituent 3 expressed frustration with what she sees as an overly polarized response to virtually every issue. As a young woman, she does not consistently feel safe, and she described her experiences on public transit as poor.
- Constituent 4 spoke about the challenges of riding the bus. He said that conflicts between passengers and bus drivers are common and can make him late to work. He is frustrated that, while living in the Loop, he sees limited visible support from CPD or other service providers. By comparison, he sees more CPD presence in the Gold Coast, where he works. He also worries about getting home safely in the evening.

- Constituent 5 illustrated her concerns about personal safety by asking her son, who is approximately a foot taller than she is, to stand beside her. She said she encounters fewer safety-related problems when she is with him. After living in the suburbs, she moved back downtown because she values its diversity and "melting pot" character. However, she believes conditions have changed: she cited trash, visible homelessness, and unmet mental-health needs. She said that calls to 911 or 311 often do not appear to result in action. She does not feel safe on the CTA unless she sees a visible CPD presence. With her son leaving for college soon, she is uncertain whether she will remain downtown once he is gone.
- After these specific comments, it moved to more of a discussion around specific issues and qualities, including:
  - Downtown safety concerns, including inconsistent police presence beyond tourist corridors.
  - Quality-of-life issues such as disruptive behavior, homelessness, mental-health crises, and sidewalk impediments.
  - Public transportation safety concerns, with reports of smoking, harassment, disorderly conduct, and lack of oversight.
  - Strong preference for a superintendent who understands Chicago's complexity and has risen through CPD ranks was voiced by many.
  - Need for leadership that clearly communicates nuance to the public and supports both community and officer wellbeing.
  - Strong emphasis on police officer mental-health resources due to trauma and high suicide rates.
  - Positive reflections from residents and visitors regarding Chicago's culture, friendliness, museums, and lakefront amenities.
- Councilor Kammerer thanked everyone, including CCPSA President Remel Terry for joining the meeting and reminded attendees that the community listening process is open through late September and encouraged adding more ideas by sharing w/ councilors or using the questionnaire on the website. Councilor Kammerer also directed attendees to the CCPSA website to learn more about the search process and asked attendees to share about the Superintendent search to ensure more downtown voices are heard.

District Council Updates

Councilor Sarah Kammerer

1ST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Provided an overview of the District Councilor role. Outlined role of councilors as facilitators to hear constituent concerns on safety and raise concerns to 001 district leadership at monthly meetings. Explained role of Nominating Committee member is to select short list of Commissioner candidates for Mayor for final appointment when vacancies on the Commission occurs.
- Reported on recent community engagement efforts with stakeholders including individual meetings with residents, and resident community groups, stakeholder group calls including LSE Presidents Association calls, Chicago Loop Alliance Public Safety Working Group, Chicago Arts District, building management, condo association and, business meetings.
- Cited ongoing issues including nuisance (motorcycles, music), pedestrian safety, CTA, Homelessness concerns.
- Shared that location specific concerns discussed in public meetings should also be shared at CAPS meetings – CAPS meeting schedules are on the materials table
- Encouraged sharing word about the Superintendent search. Noted that since inception, the CCPSA has not held any of their 61 monthly meetings downtown, including now, with the Superintendent search listening sessions.

Councilor Johnson

- No new Nominating Committee updates.
- Reported successful outreach efforts from National Night Out and Bud Biliken Parade.
- Issued guidance regarding appropriate use of 911 versus 311 for safety on issues and explained how 911 calls help track where CPD attention is needed.

Next Meeting Details

- **Date:** September, 15, 2026, 3:00PM, location, TBD