

14TH DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Censure of Christopher Laurent by the 14th District Council

Let the public record reflect that on this day, August 6th, 2026, the duly elected 14th Police District Council of Chicago has voted to formally censure Councilor Cristopher Laurent. This censure is necessary because of the unprofessional pattern of Councilor Laurent's behavior that has been harmful to the community and the work of the Council while increasing in severity over time.

Over the past three years, Councilor Laurent has: engaged physically and aggressively with constituents and co-Councilors at public meetings, performed Chair and Councilor functions improperly and with bias, made offensive posts through our official communication channels, and attempted to circumvent the democratic process including through willful violations of our bylaws.

Councilor Laurent's actions have significantly distracted from and obstructed the work of the 14th District Council that was elected by tens of thousands of local residents in order to increase public input over public safety and to increase police accountability, transparency, accessibility of city functions, understanding and implementation of restorative justice programs and models, and evidence based approaches including non-police crisis intervention and more general community violence intervention strategies.

Councilor Laurent's misconduct:

Aggressive Physical Contact Against a Constituent During a Public Meeting. - June 4th, 2026

On Thursday, June 4th, 2026, at the Pulaski Park Fieldhouse, 1419 W. Blackhawk, at approximately 6:45pm, Councilor Laurent rose from his seat and went around the District Council's table to apprehend a young Black community member, significantly smaller than himself, in order to disarm them of a microphone used for public comments. The individual was continuing to speak in a way that was preventing moving forward with the agenda and after Councilor Laurent told her to stop. However, that is no excuse to grab her arms or put his hands on her in an aggressive and escalatory manner, as he did.

As a direct result of Councilor Laurent's grabbing the community member at our meeting, the Deputy Director for District Councils at the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, Charles Isaacs, had to issue general guidance including model bylaw amendments for all District Councils, instructing them to never put their hands on any community members at public meetings, on June 11th, 2026.

This aggressive incident was an unfortunate but predictable escalation of a pattern Councilor Laurent has demonstrated of instigating physical interactions around physical objects he has purchased but chose to have perform official functions within public meetings. On Sunday, July 21st, 2024, Councilor Laurent grabbed the gavel from Councilor Orlikoff's hand immediately after he picked it up from the table where it had lain between them, instigating minor physical contact

before Councilor Orlikoff promptly let go. The gavel was established by Councilor Laurent as the official means for the Chair to call for order when community members are speaking over Councilors conducting agenda items, after a verbal call for order is ignored. Councilor Orlikoff was attempting to use it in its official capacity after invoking our bylaws that allow the majority of the council to overrule any of the Chair's functions, in this case, to call for order.

Article III: Meetings, Sec. B: Composition, 1. Chair "The Chair will work to ensure that meetings adhere to Robert's Rules of Order. The Chair has no executive power or authority to make individual decisions representing the 14th District Council" AND Sec. G: Conduct, "A meeting chair's actions as authorized by this subsection may be overruled by a majority vote of the District Council." This was within the intended use of these sections as authored by Councilor Orlikoff and passed by formal vote of the 14th District Council.

It's further worth noting that the agenda topic at that time had been two items for vote aimed to correct other improper behavior by Councilor Laurent that had reasonably confused constituents about the official business of the 14th District Council. The main disruptive community member at that meeting was a leader of the Illinois Libertarian party Councilor Laurent belongs to and had been his running mate with a write-in campaign after helping to secure Laurent's ballot access signatures. Both Councilor Laurent and his community ally were opposing the items for vote and opposing allowing the Council to vote on them. The clear majority of the council still voted those items into our bylaws and records, after overcoming the seemingly planned obstruction and overt collaboration to disrupt the legally scheduled business of the Council.

Posting Obscene and Derogatory Comments to Official Communication Channels - June 11th, 2026, and other times

Councilor Laurent posted a video to our city-owned official 14th District Council Facebook page that he himself took where his voice could audibly be heard exclaiming for a woman on the street to "get your fat ass out of the way!"

Willfully Violating our Bylaws and Intentionally Subverting the Democratic Majority to Obstruct the Work of the 14th District Council - June, 2026 and numerous other times

Councilor Laurent has repeatedly posted items on our official communication channels including our Facebook page that he knows the majority of the Council does not agree with, and has repeatedly deleted items including regular public monthly meeting flyers without any permission, notice, discussion or replacement, because of various personal grievances. All of these instances have been in violation of our bylaws Article III: Meetings, Sec. B: Composition, 1. Chair "The Chair has no executive power or authority to make individual decisions representing the 14th District Council **nor to put out information on behalf of the council that has not been shared with the entire 14th District Council and approved by at least a majority.**" However, because of repeated flagrant violations of our democratic process and legal rules, the Council was forced to adopt new additional bylaws with a clear framework for actionable consequences for violations. These bylaw

amendments passed at the special meeting on Thursday, June 25th, at the Sipping Turtle Cafe at 1pm. Councilor Laurent continued to make posts and deletions that directly misrepresented the work of the 14th District Council even after passing these additional bylaw amendments.

Councilor Laurent even went so far as to post an admission of his willful refusal to adhere to the legally passed bylaws governing our District Council, with that post itself and subsequent re-postings also serving as further direct violations of the bylaw communication policy. Councilor Laurent has been consistent from the beginning in his insistence that he possess a sole authority to speak for and take actions on behalf of the 14th District Council, even and especially when his own views are directly opposed to the actual opinions and decisions of the 14th District Council. As such, he has been a directly obstructionist force, arguably in criminal violation of the city's ordinance: **2-80-150 Retaliation, obstruction or interference prohibited – Penalty.**

“ (a) No person shall retaliate against, punish, intimidate, discourage, threaten, or penalize any other person who serves or seeks to serve as a member of the Commission or District Councils, or participates or seeks to participate, in any capacity, in the work of the Commission or District Councils. No person shall knowingly interfere with or obstruct the Commission as the Commission carries out its powers and duties under this chapter.”

Conspired and Acted to Deplatform, Delegitimize, Confuse, Dilute, and Otherwise Fully Replace the Duly Elected Legal 14th District Council of Chicago with a Misleading Proxy - Dec 2023 to July 2024

Throughout the first half of 2024, Councilor Laurent promoted a so-called “**14th District Community Committee for Public Safety and Policing Initiatives**” with an express goal of increasing arrests, antithetical to the work of the District Council and the Constitution. That ‘committee’ had no official permission or approval to operate by the 14th District Council. The Council never sought to create such a group, and Councilor Laurent never sought permission or designation or official consideration of the group by the Council. However, Councilor Laurent acted in numerous ways to dishonestly portray that unaffiliated group as either an official component of the 14th District Council and Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, or even as the direct stand in for the actual elected 14th District Council. Specifically, he promoted and platformed both the harmful and intentionally misleading name of the “**14th District Community Committee for Public Safety and Policing Initiatives**” as well as their email, 14thdistrictpublicsafety@gmail.com and the lead organizer at our public official District Council meetings, as well as in his own individual Councilor emails, in conversations, on social media, at other events, and, importantly, in emails and communications with other elected officials, especially including local Alderpersons.

As a direct result of Councilor Laurent's intentionally misleading and anti-democratic actions, the Executive Director of the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, Adam Gross, had to intervene and directly communicate with another elected official's office, that of 32nd Ward Alderman Scott Waguespack, to request that he stop participating in the disruptive

practices alongside Councilor Laurent, and that Councilor Laurent's actions were not condoned by the CCPSA.

Councilor Laurent's intentional misleading of public officials around what constitutes official 14th District Council business led to the 1st Ward Office including the fraudulent 'committee' in their April 5th, 2024 newsletter instead of accurate information about the real 14th District Council. They were upset over being misled and corrected the issue moving forward. However, the 32nd Ward Office chose to collaborate with Councilor Laurent and the fraudulent 'committee', all seeking to subvert the rule of law while putting their personal entitlements over the democratic process. 32nd Ward Alderman Waguespack had long opposed the creation of the District Councils and had refused to ever speak with some of the members of the 14th District Council once they were elected. The law itself and the Councilors who were elected to serve champion an evidence based approach to more effectively address public safety needs. But Councilor Laurent conspired with Alderman Scott Waguespack to repeatedly position the fake 'committee' as the actual 14th District Council. Waguespack's staff went so far as to tell multiple people that the fake committee was the 14th District Council, and its organizer an elected Councilor. They refused to include information on the actual 14th District Council and its public meetings, instead only promoting the fake 'committee' alongside other real District Councils. Even after being presented with official credentials and evidence, Waguespack's office continued to deny the existence of the duly elected 14th District Councilors, aside from Councilor Laurent.

By February, 2024, multiple constituents contacted the 14th District Council to express their concern, confusion, and frustration over the antics of the fraudulent 'committee' and Councilor Laurent's promotion of it. Laurent sent out notices that implied meetings for the fake 'committee' were either official business of the 14th District Council or literal 14th District Council meetings. He collaborated in sharing email addresses of individuals who signed up for official business related to the 14th District Council with an organizer for the fake 'committee', who more directly misled people about the scope and purpose and identity of his group and meetings. Laurent collaborated directly with that organizer to plan meeting locations and times for the fake 'committee' that would directly coincide with the real 14th District Council, and lent the Council's true legitimacy to those location reservation requests.

Constituents took issue with being misled over what was an official meeting, group or business, and being effectively made to waste hours of their lives, exhausting them before the actual 14th District Council official monthly public meetings would even begin. These fake 'committee' meetings often delayed our actual meetings and business. Constituents also complained about the content of the meetings, being directed solely at trying to increase arrests, while being ran more like a lecture without opportunity for participation by the audience duped into attendance. The initial 'official voting' for the leadership of the fake 'committee' was done in a relatively unpromoted and secluded setting with sparse attendance, far and away from the official 14th District Council meeting that month. But the subsequent meetings of the fake 'committee' after the 'leadership' had voted itself in place capitalized on the infrastructure of the official 14th District Council functions.

Unprofessional and Biased Conduct in Official Capacity as Chair and Councilor - Since the start of the term in May 2023

Councilor Laurent has repeatedly been accused both by constituents and co-Councilors of exhibiting bias in his Chairing of meetings and reporting of minutes. Additionally, he has been accused of not performing tasks he volunteers for or demands of himself, after an agreement is reached by the community and a clear majority of the 14th District Council.

Some of the bias in Chairing is exemplified by his ignoring or rushing thru certain agenda items and speakers, while affording more privileges to those in ideological alignment to himself. In reporting minutes, he has misconstrued the nature, purpose, and message of comments by constituents, Councilors, and guest speakers. He has further reported statements by Councilor Vargas as 'allegations' while reporting his own statements as factual. And for months obstructed the community from having a public meeting with then-Commander Melinda Linas, and repeatedly fought to deny any opportunity for the community to ask her questions.

As a result of this and previously noted biased and unprofessional conduct, the 14th District Council has received numerous calls for Councilor Laurent's resignation as well as for his removal from his position as Chair, over the course of our term. Additionally, the Council passed a bylaw addressing the pattern of behavior in documenting minutes.

Impacts

The Impacts of Councilor Laurent's pattern of egregious misconduct have been significantly harmful to the work of the 14th District Council and to the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability as well as to Chicago at large. He has made community members and co-Councilors feel uncomfortable, unsafe, and uneasy attending public meetings and otherwise engaging with the work of the Council. He has directly and indirectly impeded outreach efforts as well as public advocacy and education campaigns undertaken by the Council. When his misconduct has not merely been obstructive and disruptive, it has also been dangerous, which is especially concerning given the grave circumstances of this work as well as its basis in working with the public. Furthermore, Councilor Laurent has demonstrated a commitment to willfully undermining the democratic process and rule of law on nearly every level as it relates to the work of the District Council. For all these reasons, the 14th Police District Council of Chicago officially censures Councilor Cristopher Laurent on this day, Thursday, August 6th, 2026, and recommends his resignation and removal from office. It is the further determination of this Council that Cristopher Laurent should cease all types of activities included herein as well as any and all other forms of similar misconduct, and that he should not seek any other public office while still engaging in these behaviors.

ADOPTED this 6th day of August, 2026, at the 14th District Council meeting held at the Humboldt Park Fieldhouse.

Individual Councilor decisions:

Councilor Ashley Vargas

☒ In Favor

☐ Opposed

Signature 

Councilor Christopher Laurent

☐ In Favor

☐ Opposed

Signature _____

Councilor David Orlikoff

☒ In Favor

☐ Opposed

Signature 