

City of Chicago
DISTRICT COUNCIL #2
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: Regular Special Closed

MEETING DATE: 4/18/2024 _____

MEETING LOCATION AND ADDRESS: 3763 Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL, 60653 YMCA

MEETING START TIME: 6:32pm

Attendance & Quorum

OMA Meeting cannot take place without 2 of the 3 members present in person.

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Alexander Perez	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement: Julia Kline	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominating Committee: Ephraim Lee	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum (2 out of 3 members): Yes: No:

Public Comment

The following public comment was submitted via email and read aloud by the chair:

Zhenya Polozova – Thank you for bringing forth a proposal to rotate the roles of the 2nd police district councilors. I appreciate the councilors creating a special meeting prior to the regular one to ensure that the latter can adequately cover the broad amount of information typically raised in these meetings and give enough space for one of the most critical parts, public comment and engagement with the residents of the district. So long as these special meetings are open to the public and allow for public comment, I find them to be a helpful avenue for raising issues that fall outside the bounds of the regular meetings.

Secondly, I want to express my full support for the proposal to rotate the district councilor positions to make Councilor Perez the community engagement lead, Councilor Kline to serve on the nominating committee for the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, and for Councilor Lee to chair the council.

After attending several meetings, I believe that this structure would play well to the strengths of each councilor and make the district more functional and effective.

Councilor Perez has reported about attending community meetings in the district to speak about what the councils are and what the district councilors are working on, was active in the fight to stop arbitration for the police, is connected to community organizing on this issue, shared insights on how the district can better engage people in the community, and more.

Councilor Kline has indicated her knowledge of the legal processes surrounding police accountability, the policies currently in existence and those that could be implemented to make accountability more sound, and the elected officials and policy professionals engaged around police accountability.

Councilor Lee has expressed steadfast support for police accountability, and through his comments it is clear that he thinks deeply about the systems of policing, the challenges that lie ahead, and what kind of steps are required to change the institution to serve the people.

It is relatively rare to have all three elected officials in one jurisdiction allied on the goal which in this case is police accountability. My hope is that this change can help alleviate tensions within the district so that we can collectively take advantage of this political situation to push for necessary change in Chicago. Thank you!

Teri Watkins – Hello 2nd Police District. From several constituents of the 2nd Police District, I've been made aware of the possibility of our 3 district councilors changing roles. I hope these changes will be carried through and will contribute to the cohesion of the group, allow the district councilors to hold productive meetings and to serve the 2nd District Community more effectively.

Jasmin Smith – Hello, I am Jasmine Smith and resident and advocate in this district. I have a few concerns and demands about the roles that have been appointed amongst you three. I urged you all to switch places immediately. Julia does not need to be a community engagement chair. You have not done any outreach to our communities yet, since being sworn in. But what you have done is disrupt every meeting with your nonsense. Alex needs to be the community engagement chair. Our meetings should be run for community issues, safety and police accountability. I will be seeing you all soon.

Sheron Shapiro – Good evening, Neighbors and Councilors,

I am deeply concerned about the lack of an official response to the murder of Dexter Reed. Only Councilor Perez has signed an official statement in solidarity with like minded DCs to hold the police accountable and change the policies that enable TACT teams and their pretextual stops from

resulting in an assassination. It is clear that the CPD has no intention of following the consent decree, committing to transparency or adhering to the rules that prohibit a reasonable person's definition of excessive force.

I am also concerned that 2/3 of our Council seem to consider "transparency and accountability" buzzwords and have shown, through their inaction and complicity, lack of care in responding to this abhorrent, racist incident. Sadly, this isn't a surprise. A week after the murder of Dexter Reed, the South Side Weekly published an article entitled, "Police District Councilor Accused of Racism," It detailed an incident in which Councilor Kline referred to a black woman as a "clever monkey." It would be reprehensible as a constituent (and human) to not express disgust. Also, this does not appear to be an isolated incident and it should give us pause that Councilor Kline's response was glib and deflectionary.

To that end,

1. What steps has Councilor Kline taken to attend racial/cultural sensitivity training?
2. Given that the demands of those on the frontlines of police accountability involve firing the officers who murdered Dexter Reed, ending the racist TACT Teams and ending pretextual stops, how will the 2nd District (All three councilors) move forward to accomplish or support these aims?

Thank you for your time.

Approval of Minutes

Councilor Perez asked if there are any corrections to the March minutes. There were none. A vote on the minutes was taken. Councilors Lee, Perez and Kline voted to approve the March minutes

District Council Member Updates

Chair (Alexander J. Perez)

- Councilor Perez spoke about the work being done in the Transparency and Accountability working group, and upcoming events regarding a partnership between the 2nd District Council and Coffee Hip-Hop and Mental Health.

Community Engagement (Julia Kline)

Councilor Kline spoke about the following topics:

- Regarding Dexter Reed and the allegations of misconduct into the five officers involved in his killing, Councilor Kline submitted a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request to COPA on 4/12, asking for any other allegations that these officers have been involved in before their interaction with Mr. Reed. She received the data on 4/14 and emailed her findings to all citywide District Councilors on 4/23.
- Her investigation discovered that out of the five officers involved in Reed's shooting (Thomas Spanos, Gregory St. Louis, Victor Pacheco, Aubrey Webb, Alexandra Giampapa), only 4 were recommended for suspension by COPA Chief Andrea Kersten. It was also learned that Officer Spanos was recently exonerated on a technicality for an allegation of use of force that happened while he was an officer in training 18 months ago and has been involved in six active COPA investigations since that action took place.
- Additionally, Councilor Kline's deep dive revealed that FOP President John Catanzara has called for CPOA Chief Kersten's firing, while CPD Superintendent Larry Snelling has expressed dismay about how quickly COPA released the videos.

Nominating Committee (Ephraim Lee)

- Councilor Lee spoke about the process of submitting 15 names to the mayor's office for consideration for the commission and that he hopes that the mayor's office will get the nominees seated as soon as possible.

Discussions

- The Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice presented on the SAFET Act.

Old Business

- There was a discussion on how to switch rolls as outlined in the district bylaws. Councilor Perez made a motion to switch positions clockwise: Councilor Lee moving to Chair, Councilor Perez moving to community engagement and Councilor Kline moving to nominating committee. Councilor Lee 2nded the motion and all three councilors voted in favor of councilor Perez's motion.
- Councilor Perez made a motion to vote to support the Free2Move Coalition in their efforts to end pretextual traffic stops. It was 2nded by Councilor Kline and all three councilors voted in favor of the proposal.

New Business

Votes

Summary of Votes taken: 3

- To approve the March meeting monthly meeting minutes
- To support Freedom2move coalitions mission to end pretextual traffic stops
- A vote to switch positions clockwise (Councilor Lee as new Chair, Councilor Perez and new Community Engagement, and Councilor Kline and Nominating Committee)

Announcement of the next 2nd District Council meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: 5/30/34

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): 5141 S State St. Chicago IL, 60609

District Council ended the meeting at: ___ 8:05pm _____