

City of Chicago

District Council Meeting Minutes 014

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Type: Monthly Regular Meeting
Meeting Date: 12/7/24
Meeting Location: 1701 N. Milwaukee
Meeting Start Time: 1:07 pm (Councilor Laurent called meeting to order)

Attendance and Quorum:

Chair:	Councilor	Chris Laurent	Present
Community Engagement:	Councilor	Ashley Vargas	Absent
Nominating Committee:	Councilor	David Orlikoff	Present

Discussions:

Public Comment:

Fayani: concerns about Sgt Nowicki still on force, town hall last Friday showed still many constituent concerns about Oath Keeoers. Request for Cmdr. answer questions about Sgt Nowicki and any work being done to root out OK, request for a task force. Named that Councilors Orlikoff and Vargas sign a letter of support to rid of Sgt. Nowicki, requested Chair Laurent also sign letter of support to remove Sgt Nowicki

Sally: seconds the concerns brought up w/ Fayani. Appalling that Sgt Nowicki and his long history of bad behaviors is still on force. Request for Chair Laurent to join Councilors Vargas and Orlikoff in backing letter of support to remove Sgt. Nowicki

Allison: request to meet w/ Commander Linas – something she agreed to in initial meeting in the summer, also expecting follow up on data requests from that summer meeting

Marc: Interested in learning more about the process of becoming officers that serve and protect. Does not want to be helpless, believes that people who join police force want to do a good job and want to protect and serve, However, the culture is sick and incoming officers become indoctrinated. Wants to connect on a one on one level. Wants to be able to trust officers if ICE comes into neighborhoods to attack

District Council Updates

Councilor Vargas

Reminder: Reach Out for Support When Dealing with Police

Recently, I assisted an elderly gentleman who had been repeatedly denied a police report for a hit-and-run incident. After being turned away twice at the 14th District, he sought help from an alderman's office, which then connected us. I accompanied him to the station along with another District Councilor from the 17th District, and we were finally able to secure a police report.

Unfortunately, the experience wasn't without challenges. The constituent was still denied a report because it was after 10 days of the incident, and when we asked for a supervisor, the desk sergeant responded aggressively. We've since filed a COPA complaint for conduct unbecoming an officer. It is now with B.I.A.

This incident is a reminder: If you ever need support when dealing with police or navigating the district, please reach out to your council. We're here to help and to ensure that your rights are respected.

Updates on Commissioner Nomination Process

We recently completed the process to nominate a replacement for West Side lawyer Commissioner, Kelly Presley. This included reviewing applications, resumes, and letters of support, conducting interviews, and holding a closed meeting with all 22 nominators to discuss our recommendations.

We nominated two individuals:

Gina Piemonte, a Cook County Public Defender. She is pioneering a thoughtful approach to representation, ensuring clients have the same attorney throughout their entire case. She also trains young lawyers and incorporates peace circles that bring together police, attorneys, and individuals involved in the justice system to foster dialogue and understanding.

Shay Allen, a Civil Rights Attorney for over 10 years. Shay has dedicated most of his career to advocating for marginalized communities, providing pro bono representation to clients in need, and demonstrating commitment to justice and fairness.

Both candidates bring strong leadership and vision to the commission, and I'm excited to see one of them serve on the Commission.

Upcoming CCPSA Meeting

We have an important CCPSA meeting coming up on Dec. 12th, and our Police Superintendent will be in attendance. This is an opportunity for community members to engage directly and voice their concerns or ideas. I encourage everyone to attend and make a public comment if you feel called to do so.

Councilor Orlikoff

Shared update about Humboldt Park encampment being closed and moving people into housing. Some police involvement during the day – 2 arrests of supporter. DFSS operating in a large force to offer different options to everyone. At 5pm, only 2 tents remained. Arrests happened earlier as a show of force and to enforce that no overnight stays allowed. Humboldt Park closes at 11PM.

Councilor Laurent

Apologized for absence in November. Has spent time examining parts of the ordinance that created CCPSA. Has drafted some re-visions that are

Bucktown Community Organization doing caroling – please see Councilor Laurent for more info

iMentor – looking for 50 mentors to support North Grand students – please see Councilor Laurent for more info

Discussions

Councilor Orlikoff, Laurent and Vargas attended Annual Meeting on November 16.

Briefly described proposal process to get to 2025 DC priorities for the Commission. Councilor Orlikoff highlighted the proposal ending pre-textual traffic stops and reviewed the goals of that priority. Named that Commission has a work group on ending traffic stops. Shared information about upcoming listening session on west side at JLM Center. Encouraged people to attend.

GO1-11 is still under review. This is General Order that describes the relationship between District Leadership and the District Councilors. It's still in review period w/ CCPSA and CPD.

Institute for Non-Violence is offering a webinar about community violence intervention work on Friday 12/13/24 at 12pm. INI will share data about cvi work. See Councilor Orlikoff for more information.

Guest Speakers

Bernardo Gomez and John Jones from Community Safety Coordination Center focusing on 15 community areas. Office established in 2021 during pandemic. Works to coordinate w/ city stakeholders to work on data driven and community led solutions to understand and mitigate the root cause of violence. Focuses on community activation, behavioral change community engagement

Community engagement: CSCC has community tables w/ community organizers and members to uplift issues that are driving roots causes of violence. Works w/ community engagement managers from each community to partner w/CSCC to bring in re-entry, unhoused services. Rapid response mechanism exists to prioritize community needs and concerns for city departments – clearing a vacant lot, filling potholes, making sure streetlights work, removing graffiti, beautification of the blocks – (community pride in a neighborhood, decreases violence)

Constituent questions / comments

- Sounds like 311 w/ an added lever to make sure requests are filled.

- CSCC does not tell 311 what to do, we work w/ them to escalate things w/ the appropriate city department, we are in communication often to share data etc
- 311 is just one of many stakeholders we work with – victim services, DHSS, streets and sanitation etc
- Sounds like broken windows policies that work to make sure small issues don't escalate to bigger things.
- Are CSCC's funding at risk considering the big deficit?
 - CSCC is housed w/ Department of Public Health and we have not heard that our budget has been getting cut
- What has response been w/ other city departments? Are you being tolerated by the other departments? Or is there real, welcomed, collaborative engagement w/ the other city departments you mentioned?
 - Yes, CSCC believes every city department and every person in Chicago plays a role in community safety. Feels like we are welcomed and even embraced. CSCC does the necessary follow up w/ city departments to make sure the constituent requests are being moved on and also shares the positive feedback and gratitude from neighbors w/ the city departments. This in turn helps connect the city departments w/ community members for direct engagement.
- What infrastructure things seem like the most obvious things to fix?
 - Every infrastructure piece matters even when it's not been historically been talked about. Met w/ DSS and DOT to work on community safety issues that they can be part of improving – towing abandoned cars, tree and bus trimming, clearing out vacant lots, repairing potholes and clearing out graffiti, It is a block by block assessment so it's different priorities for each block.
- How do you work w/ CPD?
 - CPD has been amazing partners. Shared an example from 005 and how CPD participates in difficult convos. They offer opportunities for community to work w/ them.
 - Attend beat meetings to learn more from people on the ground. Good space to hear what people are concerned about, a space to learn where there are gaps in service

Community activations: intentional meetings w/ targeted stakeholders (CVI groups, community orgs, service providers, neighbors from block clubs, small business owners, faith based orgs, building owners and managers etc) invited to a committee to give a holistic view of community safety issues and solutions that includes many perspectives

Discretionary Budget Priorities

Councilor Orlikoff requested a phone, cell plan and laptop and equipment to stream meetings.

- Other requests, zoom account, canva account, website platforms like hootsuite to support more outreach on different platforms, space and room rental costs, experts
- All in one device for streaming – Councilor Laurent has two suggestions.

Constituent suggestions for budget requests

- Doorknockers and canvassers
- Agree w/ zoom license, hootsuite

Concerns

- Custody of equipment and asset inventories
- DCs are using their own personal equipment (laptops and cellphones)

Votes

2025 Calendar – 1:00pm on 1st Saturdays except for June and September – those meetings will be on 2nd Saturdays

Motion to approve the calendar by Councilor Orlikoff

Councilor Laurent – yes

Councilor Vargas – absent

Councilor Orlikoff- yes

014 2025 Calendar passes

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Orlikoff

Next meeting on January 4, Logan Square Library

Meeting ends 2:28 PM

11 attendees

2 guest speakers: Bernardo Gomez and John Jones

2 DCs: Chris Laurent and David Orlikoff

1 staff: Anna Mangahas