

City of Chicago
DISTRICT COUNCIL # 014
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: Regular Special Closed
MEETING DATE: June 1, 2024
MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: Wicker Park/Bucktown Library 1701 N Milwaukee Ave
MEETING START TIME: June 1, 2024

Attendance & Quorum

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

District Council Member Name	Attendance		
Chair: Chris Laurent	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remote: <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
David Orlikoff	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remote: <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Vargas	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remote: <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

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

Public Comment

Michael Saelens - I was telling David before fireworks, they're already out in my neighborhood by my building. I've discussed it over the years that the older person and it's like we can't tend them down because they move around so quickly. But as I've done some research, it's actually a federal offense, the halfway original law of that level. But when 9/11 came after 911, they did start restricting what you could burn across state lines and fireworks like that are among those. And since they're not manufactured in Illinois. If you have them, you're actually and it's a mandatory when your prisoner, when your prison says and so I don't know what to do, but it's just, I mean, my ability seems to be a target. And it starts earlier and earlier every year this past week to about every night so.

Sally Hamman - Yeah. I want to thank Councilor Vargas for getting us a meeting with the Commander Linas of the 14th District. Is such wonderful news to hear. I'm so glad we had that meeting and set it up. I also wanted to speak for Allison Schmidt who is unfortunately out of town this weekend and she asked me to raise some concerns she had. Allison e-mail Commander Lena said late April and a bunch of us called here also in late April. I tried to call. It didn't get through. I was one of those. I didn't get through to her, but I let them know that I wanted to speak to her and that we wanted her to come to our 14th District Council meetings. I said I was at I've been a member of CAPS for 14 years when I did that. So I wasn't speaking for the District Council, I was speaking for myself. But and Allison wrote her an e-mail, but I was very concerned about the response that that the commissioner, Counselor Lawrence sent back to her in which he said he is the only person who should be able to talk to the commander Linas and he told her to basically refrain from communicating with Linas. And I really came down pretty heavy on her. I thought that was really unfair, I mean. As. Citizens, we're all entitled to call commander elitist or senator emails whenever we want. She did not pretend to speak for the 14th District Council. In the e-mail that I saw, she just said that she wanted the the commander to come to our meetings. And I mean, we've been waiting for months and months for you to set up this meeting and it hasn't happened. I mean, every time we ask about it. So no, no, she can't come on Saturdays. No, she can't come. She can't make an appointment with us. But yet when a bunch of us called and emailed.

Faayani Mijana - I also want to thank Councilor Vargas for setting the meeting. If you all recall, it was three months ago now or three meetings ago that we made the request if the commander come and counselor Laurent ducked it for the last three months. Making excuses each time for why the commander couldn't be here. And so the commander being here is thanks to the pressure that neighbors put on the on the commander. We directed phone calls to her and Ashley was our supporter in office who also helped organize this meeting and so. Counselor Iran, if anything, was a roadblock each and every time. And so with this meeting coming up. I just want to say I have concerns about Councilor Laurent's ability to be neutral in this. QA with the commander. And so I think I would just reiterate that I, I don't think, I think up to this point, councilor has only been opposed to the majority of the neighbors. And so I would like to put forward the request that he be removed his chair because he's not served in that role, because he's not neutral, he's only in defense of the commander. And it showed when Allison sent an e-mail to the commander and the commander forwarded it to Councilor Laurent.

But we're not your subjects, Councilor Laurent. You serve us, you serve an office. And so that's what I would reiterate. And so, yeah, that's what I would say.

Justin Tucker - I'm curious to see any polling that shows Laurent's popularity along with people. Neighbors but. Regardless the police District Council is a good first step for Rule of the People. So there's other things that we can be doing to give people more power to make their politicians more accountable. One thing we can do is we can make the office of mayor irreconcilable position. If you want to sign a petition that will put that, put that on a referendum. I have a petition you can sign. I also have a petition you can sign to put one of the to put an independent anti-war, pro-police reform candidate on the ballot for president. So please come see me if you're interested in more people power. Thank you.

Adam Burck - Hi, so my understanding is the purpose of CCPSA is to promote public safety and accountability of police doing their job properly, But I know the crime statistics that came out on Monday. Theft, which is the highest category of crime, is up 10% this year and 106% in our district. In the last three years, aggregated battery of 53% this year, shootings of 111% this year and robbery, which is at a historically high level is up again 7%, but for perspective, up 93% over the last three years. So I would like to ask the Council to do 2 things. First is now that they've been in place for a year. Them to say today what this council has accomplished in the last year.

And I'd like to know what the objectives are for the rest of this year. And just with respect to. The attack we just heard on council Laurent, which is completely unfounded. It's clear that the commander has scheduling issue last month sent her number one assistant to observe. And then scheduled the meeting that she always intended to attend. Once a special date was set up, which is exactly what Councilor Laurent has been saying for the last four months. So, any attack on him is just another fabricated controversy.

Concerned Neighbor - So in relation to public safety and some of these issues, I have been accumulating some relevant books and if anybody is interested in looking at them and potentially borrowing them, it's my contribution as kind of a lending library. They they run the gamut in some degree. I would. Sometimes you might have already heard of My Grandmother's Hands which is well known, which is talked about how to do care and it specifically has chapters also in relation to. Police here's about how to show up for each other. You know, we have to have a vision of what a safe community can look like, and some of these books have some of that in there, and this one is. Was written, I got to see the women that that wrote it that were in the that were incarcerated at the time. They were able to do this exciting listening project and it's very informative. So, there's more good stuff in there.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes are approved by the second regular meeting after they are taken. Approved minutes are posted online within 10 days after approval.

April 2024 Meeting minutes were approved.

May 2024 Meeting Minutes were approved.

District Council Member Updates

Councilor Vargas - Discussed attendance and subjects of the final interim Commission meeting. Expressed spending more money of violence prevention organizations to engage the youth who are committing these crimes. These high crime rates speak highly about the need for livable wages and more jobs in the community. On Police Accountability, spoke with OIG regarding a case involving a migrant, it was when the police showed up to a volunteer's home, someone with 'very large guns', and the volunteer received a menacing phone call. Councilor Vargas continues to work with the executive director of CCPSA and also with 'some policy folks' who worked in COPA before, to navigate the system and find justice. For the past year, she has been learning how to navigate these systems of accountability and there is still so much work to do, since COPA and BIA is all that is currently available.

Councilor Orlikoff - Recapped the 'Peace Bike Ride' event and the donations from Cermak Produce and Etheria Cafe. The 'Peace Walk' was attended by the mayor and deputy mayor for community safety. Confirmed the community table at the upcoming Logan Square Farmers Market on June 23. The 14th District Council has the Community table reserved. Looking to fill the volunteer schedule between 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Councilor Laurent - Continuous efforts to establish a meeting with Commander Linas. Conducted training for other District Councils on parliamentary procedure, attended bordering district council meetings to learn from shared concerns and experiences.

Discussions

Councilor Orlikoff - Discussed his concerns of the result of the BIA investigations of police associated with extremist groups. No wrongdoing was found for the eight CPD officers who are alleged members of these extremist groups. The CCPSA released a statement with CPD and BIA to work together to create greater transparency for all BIA investigations.

Discussed the ongoing progress of the Free2Move coalition and the proposal of traffic stops being added to the consent decree.

Mentioned using budget funds to acquire promotional items.

Councilor Vargas - Spoke on an ordinance lead by Ald. Ramirez-Rosa to alter the current Community Commission and the powers they wield.

Announced the 4th Annual Restorative Justice Conference held at 'BUILD' in the Austin neighborhood.

Councilor Laurent - Discussed the desire to invite subject matter experts to deliver a presentation on 'Evidence-Based Policing'

ALL - discussed the details regarding the scheduled special meeting with Commander Linas on June 27, 2024.

A full video of this meeting can be found by visiting: <https://youtu.be/VifiBGMnLII>

Votes

No Votes outside the approval of minutes were presented.

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: June 27, 2024

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): Haas Park 2402 N Washtenaw

District Council ended the meeting at: 2:25 PM