

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING TYPE:  Regular  Special  Closed  
 MEETING DATE: September 7, 2024  
 MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: Wicker Park Library 1701 N Milwaukee Ave  
 MEETING START TIME: 1:06 PM

**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 Orilkoff	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**

Tracy Kostenbader - I'm here because of Space One. And, uh, Trejon was about it. And, and, um, I am upset how the police have been treating him, and I think that, like, he has had violations on, like, they are citing him for violations, like, the day before the incident happened where there were ten police showed up at the gallery. And for police cars, what a fucking waste of, sorry, sorry, what a waste of taxpayer money. I showed up at a gallery at the end of the event, and it was an event where donations were asked for no pay. And they're claiming he had violations in terms of his license. But then they arrested him, and I have no idea why they arrested him. He doesn't know why they arrested him. Or they, and then they said he was under arrest, and then one of the policemen tripped, and yanked his arm, and then yanked the, they had two policemen around him. I don't know all the story, but people should be aware that this is outrageous, and, I'm very upset because I know Trejon, and I was actually at the gallery for a week. An hour before this incident happened, it wasn't like it was overcrowded. It wasn't like it was crazy. It was normal night on Milwaukee Avenue. It's like 23 32 or 31. I can't remember the exact address, but I just am here to support Trejon and the gallery and say, Yeah, if there are, uh, he actually won a case the day before because they cited him violations. They've been going back to his gallery over and over again. They gave him citations a month or two ago, and there was a court date the night before this happened, and they threw them out. So what's happening is they're citing him for these things. I don't know, I, um, there are other people who are also here for this, but Thank you for your I just, I just wanted to say I'm really upset and Outrage and I've lived in the neighborhood for 32 years.

Fayanni - Yeah. I'm getting on public comment to ask that there be a change in roles of the district counselors and that, Chris Laurent, Councilor Laurent, be removed as chair. And the reason why I'm requesting that is, Councilor Laurent has a history of dereliction of duty. It took about, you know, going back many months, we requested that the councilor, bring the District Commander, Linas. And, Councilor Laurent, prolonged and delayed and, did everything to, keep that from happening. And then, Councilor Vargas met with, Linas, and it happened almost immediately. One of the residents in our district also sent an email to Linas asking her personally if she could come to the meeting, and Laurent sent her a nasty email back saying that, you know, it's not her job to do that. He's the person that that should be communicating with the commander when the reality is that we he was elected to the office to serve the people. You know, we don't serve him. He serves us. And then, also, with these meetings that are going on right now, the communication Laurent used to own communicating, you know, when the meeting is happening and where the meeting is happening, and those emails have completely fallen off. I haven't seen any of the emails. I don't know if any of y'all have been. So, communication has fallen off. And so, I I see it as, like, a dereliction of duty, to residents in this community, and, he's now, you know, kinda getting in the way of us fighting for accountability. So I would like to see him removed, and I would like to see Councilor Vargas be the chair. Thank you. That's all.

Nicholas Thompson. This is going towards, what is happening at Space 01 with Trejon. For months now, there has been complete constant police harassment from the police over and over on warrant misdemeanors put against this place. Previously before the arrest, on the night of the arrest, it was everybody who was in the place who had heard of this argument had been kicked out and asked to reach out to us for help. We had online footage. We walked past the house and that facility before this arrest. This is unacceptable. It is clearly a violation of speech. Um, a lot of the police officers were talking about that because people, like, have guns in general in Chicago, and somebody could have a gun in this case, which is clearly just racist prejudice. Speak up, please. Its clearly racist prejudice being pushed against this young black man. We are simply, I'm not even a part of it, it is simply a group of leftists, queer, BIPOC people who are expressing themselves in art, and that has been commented on a lot by the police in very negative ways. This is clearly not fiction. We do not accept it.

Sayed - I'm a local Wicker Park resident. I'm also a journalist in the city. I also want to comment on the incident that's based on the work that folks are speaking about today. Trajan said that the police did not read in his Miranda rights. I'm wondering if, you know, that's something that could be investigated or looked into. Also looking forward to seeing if there's any police body camera footage that can be obtained from the incident. I want to say that I visited this space quite often. I was not there that night, but I've seen the video of the arrest. And by my look of it, the police officer is dragging his arm down, which, made themselves fall over. So I'm hoping that the community can hold some accountability there. I know there's been some issue with business permits on the space, but I'm hoping there's a way for to advocate for them to have the right permits so they don't have these issues again.

Sophia Brogan - I'm also here to talk about the incident at Space One, and I just want to add in that I'm in support of Trayvon's freedom and his rights himself as an artist and an organizer. And that there's common knowledge that the same police department has harassed other POC owned businesses on the street like the barbershop. And that also the art show that was going on was something that was in support of Palestinian survivors and the truth of the genocide happening currently, what's happening there. And police abuse. And that, in the gallery.

Sally Hamman - I wanted to say that I also support removing you, Chris, as chair. I mean, Feeyanni listed the problems in getting commander Linas here and the problems with us about communication. And I think that I've raised the issue of the communication piece at several meetings. And I think this meeting is a prime example of what's happened. You used to send out an email list to lots of people that that I knew who came to these meetings, maybe not every meeting, but they came often, and none of them are getting any kind of notification. Now I know last time I brought this up, you said, well, David's got a list, but David's list is David's list, and that was a separate list that I signed up for. I signed up for a list that was put on the table. My understanding was an email list for these district council meetings. And I got emails from you for months saying, here's the meeting. Here's the here's the agenda. And then, all of a sudden, there was a new subcommittee headed by Adam, you know, that you all set up headed by Adam Burke. And somehow Adam got that email list, although he wrote it tonight, but people who signed up on the general email list were suddenly on his. You all say, oh, no. No. No. No. Oh, he does. And now there's no emails going out. And then you say, oh, there was a problem with that list, so I'm not gonna send anything anymore. So what I see is that you are basically you know, you it feels like you're sabotaging these meetings and and trying to exclude people who might be interested in coming. And I wanna see someone as chair who is going to promote the community to come to these meetings, and I don't see him doing that.

Justin Tucker - I support investigating any sort of police abuse with the, with the art gallery. So, we should certainly pressure to get those involved.. If there's anybody in this room that's an impediment to change, it's Councilor Orlikoff. If you've read Jim Daley's article in the South Side Weekly, you will see that that article exposed a lot of the abusive behavior that has isolated David. And has made him sort of, got a reputation of being, harsh. I mean, he's harassed aldermen and their staff. He's been disrespectful to CCPSA leadership. He's been disrespectful to constituents. So, it's no wonder why people might not want to get involved. And I would certainly appreciate answers to simple questions I've asked Councilor Orlikoff, which are Is the 14th District interrelated with the local IPOs? If so, when did that happen? How does the Council decide when to associate with other groups, in a formal way outside of these meetings? These are simple, reasonable questions that, any constituent should ask and any official should be able to answer. If David wants to be transparent, then he should, if he wants transparency from the police, he should be transparent himself. He's not offered any sort of transparency. So, I'd like to ask, the counselor, when can these questions be answered? And when can we inspect an apology for your despicable, abusive behavior?

Allison Schmidt - I'm gonna echo what Sally and Feeyanni said. I think the time is now actually for there to be a role change, at the council level. I'm the individual who, had been communicating with, commander Linas who was told to step down, by Councilor Laurent. Basically, told that I was not allowed to communicate with her, which was quite baffling then when she actually did come to a public meeting that we had advocated for about a year. And she told the audience, yes, you can absolutely communicate with me. Here's my email address. So I'm not going to accuse you of lying, but it certainly reads that way. So I think if we're talking about accountability, transparency, I think that's exactly what I'm talking about right now. And I too would like to see Councilor Vargas take the chair lead on this council. Thank you.

Gil Jimenez - There's a proper order, I think. And I don't know what your role is in connection with the last speaker, I don't know what her role is in connection with the council. But no one other than the council members or people authorized by them can write emails speaking for the council. I support the Chairman's efforts and work on behalf of it.

Hope - I am from Space 01 Gallery that has been harassed and targeted unfairly by police, culminating in the arrest of the owner of our art gallery a week ago. We're a legal art gallery operating under an art gallery license and have been unfairly targeted, hit with citations, cease and desist. And, again, the order to arrest of Trejon, the owner of the space. So, I'm here on behalf of the space and the community to demand an investigation on that misconduct and for the police abuse to stop. We are a DIY local minority run gallery. We have do a lot of programming that centers anti colonial violence, queer people, people of color, and we are just a safe space for the community. We would like to be able to exist and continue to provide that without threat of harassment.

Carolyn Fortman - Yeah. I'm looking at a couple emails that I got from, David, and it looks like I got an email on August 24th letting us know about this meeting and the October meeting. And then yesterday, which was, whatever date yesterday was, I received an email from him about today's meeting and what would be discussed. Also the October meeting was listed on that. So those are 2 two, emails just about this meeting and the October meeting that I personally have received. So and I got a last meeting after the discussion that everyone understood that David was going to be the one sending out notices about the meeting. And I received a follow through, so I didn't expect anything from, mister Laurent.

Sayed - I was also wondering if there's a way to investigate the arresting officers. Last name is Robbins, 5016, and Witczak, their number is 12310. I also want to note that every time I look at this space, they've only requested donations. There's never been a charge at the door, which I think is a point of contention in the building's department. And this was also the night well, no. The week of the DNC when I believe that officers were supposed to be patrolling public safety measures against any sort of vandalism on the streets. And these officers focused their time at this gallery?

## 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.

Minutes from the July 21 , 2024 meeting were approved as presented and amended.

Minutes from the August 3, 2024 meeting were approved as presented and amended.

## District Council Member Updates

Vargas - talked about the success of the art build was to show solidarity between, hyper local public safety to the safety in Gaza. Urged someone file a COPA complaint in regards to the Space 01 incident and her history of success in filing a similar complaint.

Laurent - Participation in National Night Out event held at Haas Park. Attendance at the Public Safety Committee meeting. Attended the CCPSA Commission meeting at the DuSable center on Pre-textural traffic stops. Mentioned the recent shooting incident at the Logan Square Blue Line station and expressed that everyone use caution and stay safe.

Orlikoff - Mentioned former 5th Area Deputy Chief Nieves and one other officer officers who are currently being reprimanded for their actions of destruction of private property during the Puerto Rican Day festivities.  
Listed the upcoming Consent decree forums and how people can voice their concerns. CCPSA budget reviw of CPD is coming up soon and they are soliciting feedback.  
Mentioned the upcoming speaker at the October 5 meeting will be from Tobara Richardson, of the Office of Inspector General.  
Talked about the experience and the interactions at the "Take Back the Block" event.

## Discussions

Carlton Mayers II, Esq. provided a presentation on the de-certification process and how people can participate in that process. A link to the slide presentation can be found by visiting <https://www.mayersolutions.com/resources-1?wix-vod-video-id=2c01cd47c9394aa69496a709a13b9e9f&wix-vod-comp-id=comp-lrf5bqlc>

Orlikoff - discussed further the incident at the Space 01 art gallery and the next steps for all to take and the forthcoming investigation process. Mentioned that the conversation with Cmdr. Linas has provided the official statement of the 14th district officers do not target anyone for any reason, for their ideology or assign, you know, or the color of their skin. They will respond to complaints they received if they receive complaints.

Laurent - spoke with police officers regarding the Space 01 incident and provided the available details at the time, but states that he will dig deeper to discover more of the situation.

The council briefly discussed the issue of the budget policy. It is currently being re-written and has been tabled for future discussion, once the final policy is enacted.

Orlikoff - discussed the University of Chicago challenge to the FOP Arbitration Amicus Brief item, which is currently under consideration to be included into the Consent Decree. The provided information displays a date that is past due, but it has been brought to the attention that the deadline has been extended.

Votes

Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 21 2024 and August 3, 2024.

Vote to officially sign on to the FOP Arbitration Amicus Brief in opposition of private Police Arbitration - Orlikoff Motioned, Vargas Seconds, Vote passes without objection.

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 5, 2024

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): Logan Square Public Library 3030 W Fullerton Ave

District Council ended the meeting at: 3:02 PM