

City of Chicago

District Council Meeting Minutes 014

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Monthly Meeting
Meeting Date: January 4, 2025
Meeting Location: 3030 W Fullerton
Meeting Start Time: 1:10 pm (Councilor Laurent called meeting to order)

Attendance and Quorum:

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

Quorum: Yes

Public Comment

1. Alex, 002 District Councilor: requested that Councilor Orlikoff steps down from his role as a District Councilor, cited damage done in the community and request for process healing to take shape with first step being Councilor Orlikoff stepping down.
2. Anthony B, 003 District Councilor: reiterated importance of accountability and responsibility including reflecting on behaviors. Request for Councilor Orlikoff to step down
3. Anthony T, 017 District Councilor: As a neighboring councilor representing Chicago's 17th Police District, I feel compelled to address recent events surrounding Councilman Orlikoff and his behavior towards this city's residents and my decision to sign a letter calling for accountability and his resignation from his fellow District Councilors. I believe it's crucial to approach such matters through a lens rooted in moral and ethical values, employing a victim-centered approach informed by restorative justice principles and Native traditions. Those who came forward with their experiences with patterns of abuse they have experienced from Councilman Orlikoff expressed that taking this action was a necessary one for them. Supporting those individuals who have faced harm aligns deeply with the values I was raised with, which is why I chose to stand with them today. It is now incumbent upon Councilman Orlikoff to step down, as this is not only the call of the broader community but also of the very people who entrusted him with their vote.

His actions are inconsistent with the core tenets of accountability, transparency, and justice that these positions were created to uphold. Now is not the time to deflect or gaslight those advocating for accountability but time to honor the voices of the people and resign. While I do not represent the 14th District, I share the deep concern of its residents. Councilman Orlikoff's erratic behavior reflects a troubling pattern of abuse of power by some Chicago politicians—an unacceptable reality that must end. I stand with those calling for his resignation and urge him to listen to the people he was elected to serve. Fayani 014 resident: also standing w/ other calling for Councilor Orlikoff's resignation, acknowledged Councilor Orlikoff's work and effort on Council, shared that Councilor Orlikoff has caused harm, and those he has harmed requested he step down.

4. Sally 014 resident: worked w Councilor Orlikoff' since elected, respects the work he does in securing speakers, and relaying info and opportunities, has only experienced the good parts of Councilor Orlikoff's work. Conflicted and very sad to hear about all the negative experiences others have shared. Would like to see Councilor Orlikoff get help and stay on w/ understanding he must improve his behaviors.
5. Nat: heard scary stories about Councilor Orlikoff, agrees taking him from his role is important step, encouraged people who were harmed to be centered in whatever this process looks like, request for white cis males in his network work to hold Councilor Orlikoff' accountable
6. John P: Commissioner for LoSAH Community Mental Health Center, 355 W Armitage offering free services for neighbors in LS, HP, Hermosa. Losahcenter.org
7. Dion 007 District Councilor: Shared that he has spoken to Councilor Orlikoff' and shared that his behavior hurts business of District Councilors across the city. Has had 2 volatile and tense encounters with Councilor Orlikoff. Understands why people are scared by Councilor Orlikoff's behavior. Had exchanges with others and learned that similar negative experiences were also had w/ them and Councilor Orlikoff. Shared that Councilor Orlikoff' did apologize to him, though has not made similar apologies to others he has hurt
8. Gabe 014 resident: Adding his voice to others asking Councilor Orlikoff to step down. Worked w/ Councilor Orlikoff during his campaign. Has seen Councilor Orlikoff's commitment to this work. Concerns that other 014 constituents feel unsafe around Councilor Orlikoff. Work of holding police accountable is a tall order and wants to focus on that
9. Leo 012 District Councilor: worked w/ Councilor Orlikoff on several campaign including shot spotter and ending pretextual stops. Believes DC role is too fresh to make a mistake of allowing harmful behaviors to continue. DCs have been entrusted w/ role of accountability and need to model that. Understands a certain amount of aggression is needed when going after Mayor etc, however aggression towards constituents, community members and co-councilors is a line that cannot be crossed and it has been.
10. Neighbor expressed additional concerns that Councilor Orlikoff is being checked on and held accountable because he has known others who received violence.

Acknowledges Councilor Orlikoff's work on shotspotter and traffic stops. Has been approached by constituents for almost a year about Councilor Orlikoff's behavior. Came to conclusion that requesting Councilor Orlikoff's resignation is way to address concerns she's heard. Here for accountability and do not want to replicate systems of harm. Worked w/ other District Councilors to draft a letter addressing the concerns about his behaviors. Presented letter to Councilor Orlikoff and named that things will be escalated to public comment today on January 4 to make this issue external. Many attempts in past 18 months have been made to call in Councilor Orlikoff on his behavior. Unsure of where this will go. Councilor Orlikoff's absence is telling.

Councilor Laurent

Not looking to remove Councilor Orlikoff from his role, just want a check valve – an official censure that came from Commission or OIG. If Councilor Orlikoff steps down, he'd be highly missed. Want to maintain the trust of constituents. Councilor Orlikoff has guidance and purpose to carry through and do the right thing.

District Council Updates

Councilor Vargas

A gentleman was denied a police report and it's an ongoing issue, COPA complaint that was filed was sent to BIA. Councilor Vargas completed BIA interview yesterday, 1/3 and awaiting update on BIA's finding.

Councilor Vargas apologized for missing November and December meetings – family emergencies.

Attended a community meeting, was heartened by the community's push to rid CPD of extremist police officers in CPD. With public push from community, a meeting w/ Mayor's office was secured and Mayor's office agreed to assemble a task force to work on ridding CPD

Nominating Committee – deadline for Mayor's office to finalize the West Side vacancy is Monday, 1/6.

Restorative Justice Community Court (RJCC) for 18 – 26 year olds at St. Hyacinth Church, witnessed a judge get to know participants and be curious about how to support the 18-26 year olds. RJCC offers anger management classes, connections to GED classes and vocational trainings, job opportunities in the neighborhood and regular weekly check ins.

Commander Meeting at 1pm, 1/21 request for note taker and facilitator to join Councilor Vargas. Neighbor Sally volunteer. Short meeting 30 minutes, discussing what is brought up in the monthly DC meeting. Request to also prep and debrief for 1/21/24 meeting.

Councilor Laurent

Public safety update

Big window sashing of popular café on main corridor. Gave reminders to say something if you see something. Reminder that there are resources

014 Commander Linas and data staffer coming to 2/1 meeting

Councilor Orlikoff

Absent

Discussions

Councilor Vargas meeting w/ BIA regarding desk sergeant Mary Mating (spelling?) Ongoing work to hold 14th District commander accountable for officers in district

Constituent request for COPA presenter at a future meeting, likely March because of Cmdr Linas coming in February.

Councilor Laurent agrees RJCC Councilor Vargas previously shared is a great model for alternate courts. Constituents offered additional opportunities to engage in RJCC.

Policing

Councilor Vargas shared traffic stop qr code for constituents to share their traffic stop experiences with Commission

Votes

October 2024 minutes – no objections, passed with unanimous consent by Councilors Laurent and Vargas

December 2024 minutes – no objections - passed with unanimous consent by Councilors Laurent and Vargas

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Vargas

Next meeting on February 1, Logan Square Library, 3030 W. Fullerton

Meeting ends 1: 57PM