

14. Below are the dates of DC 017's public meetings for the remainder of 2024 calendar:

- September 19
- October 17
- November 19
- December 19

Barring unforeseen circumstances, if you are appointed for the vacancy before the end of 2024, will you be able to attend all of the 2024 meeting dates of the District Council that remain at the time of your appointment? *

- Yes
- No

10. LIAM

Open-Ended Questions

Please observe any listed word limits.

15. Why do you want to serve as a District Council Member in the 17th Police District? *

250 word limit

As a criminal defense attorney I have dedicated my entire professional life to advocating for greater accountability and transparency from the Chicago Police Department. I support greater transparency and accountability at CPD because of my deep commitment to social justice issues, but I also understand that these reforms will help us to achieve the improvements in public safety that we all need and deserve. In service of this mission I believe that CPD District Council Members have a unique opportunity to promote better communication between the Officers and Residents of the 17th Police District. I feel obligated to volunteer to step forward to serve in this role, because I have a unique background and expertise which will help me to facilitate this important dialogue.

Enter your answer

16. What do you think are the most important accountability and/or public safety issues facing the 17th Police District and how will you work on them? *

250 word limit

As a criminal defense attorney I have witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of violence in our city, but I have also seen the harmful impacts of police misconduct and tactical enforcement policing strategies which are heavily dependent upon intrusive and discriminatory pretextual investigative stops. These abuses are extremely counterproductive because they undermine public trust between law enforcement and the communities that they serve. Law enforcement officers cannot effectively investigate and prevent crime and violence if they don't have input from the citizenry at large. Conversely, the citizenry cannot make informed judgments about the effectiveness of their police department, and their willingness to cooperate with modernization efforts, if they are not provided with a candid, accurate, and accessible flow of information.

As a member of the CPD 17th Police District Council I would work tirelessly to maintain communication with the public and the police department, so that I can stay informed about the specific needs and concerns of the community and monitor the progress and outcomes of our current policing strategies and directives. I would pay especially close attention to ensure that our rank and file sworn officers are adequately trained and encouraged to facilitate alternative policing strategies such as cooperating with the work of specialty courts, helping to facilitate services for victims of crimes, and screening and flagging juveniles and emerging adults for deferral programs.

17. Each District Council has a Chair, a Community Engagement Coordinator, and a Nominating Committee Member. If selected to serve on this District Council, your specific position would be that of **Chair**. Please note the role of the chair is very independent and part of the role includes being the primary contact with the 17th District Commander and staff. What does the role of Chair mean to you and how are you prepared to serve in this role? (Read more about the District Council roles here: https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/chicago/latest/chicago_il/0-0-0-2693661#JD_2-80-070) *

250 word limit

I have strong personal opinions about criminal justice reform and police accountability and transparency, but I also recognize that the citizenry of the 17th Police District encompasses a wide variety of differing viewpoints. I strongly believe that the most important role of a District Council Member is a fact-finding role. I don't believe that it would be consistent with my responsibilities as a District Councilor to use this office to advance my own personal views. Instead, I would be tasked with seeking out and understand the concerns and insights that are most important to my constituents and the law enforcement community within my police district. I am a good listener, and I am very patient and respectful of other viewpoints. These traits would make me especially well suited for the role of Chair of the 17th Police District Council. I would also note that, as reflected in my resume, I have extensive past experience participating in board meetings of various committees and community organizations, including executive experience as presiding officer. My extensive litigation experience at court and administrative hearings will also be helpful in allowing me to facilitate orderly and constructive proceedings when necessary.

18. Please describe what a productive relationship with the police in the 17th District would look like? What role will you take in building that relationship? *

250 word limit

I believe strongly in working toward meaningful police accountability in the future, and confronting our past history of police misconduct in Chicago. But I also understand that our rank and file sworn officers are often subjected to unfair criticism. As a criminal defense attorney who represents notorious and unpopular clients, I can relate to the experience of being unfairly criticized for doing an important job in our democratic society. For this reason, throughout my career I have been able to develop a good rapport and amicable working relationships with law enforcement officers based upon a foundation of mutual trust and respect. In my past experience, most rank and file sworn officers would gladly welcome the highest standards professionalism for themselves and their colleagues and they do not expect or want to be shielded from accountability for their police work. Most sworn officers simply want to be treated fairly without having their service politicized. If I am chosen to be appointed as a CPD Police District Council Member I will pledge to serve the best interests of my constituency in good faith without any political agenda. I am confident that the leadership and rank and file sworn officers of the 17th Police District will learn to trust and respect me for this approach.

19. The 17th District Council is committed to advancing and promoting diverse voices within the 17th Police District and the City of Chicago. How would you support the District Council duties as described in the ordinance? Please include any relevant experience. (Read more about District Council duties here: https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/chicago/latest/chicago_il/0-0-0-2693661#JD_2-80-070) *

250 word limit

I am a strong advocate for making space for diverse voices in the conversation about public safety issues and I pledged to work tirelessly to facilitate this important mission. I also believe that any conversation about diversity in the context of the debate about public safety issues should include people like myself who have dedicated their entire professional careers to fighting for criminal justice reform. I am a public interest lawyer who has bona fide experience advocating for police accountability and transparency measures, both inside and outside of the courtroom. My informed perspective should be represented in this conversation.

20. OPTIONAL: Is there anything else you would like to add about your skills and experiences that make you uniquely qualified for this position?

250 word limit

As a practicing criminal defense attorney, my unique background would be a great asset in this position. I have extensive experience with the day-to-day procedures and operations of virtually every aspect of the Chicago Police Department. I also have extensive experience with the Cook County criminal justice system that is often inseparable from policing issues. This wealth of professional knowledge will help me educate my constituents about the activities at the 17th Police District Stationhouse, and when necessary it will help me to dispel any misinformation that may inevitably arise among the members of the public, or members of the law enforcement community, about public safety and criminal justice issues.

Resume and Candidate Questionnaire

Please remember to email your resume or biography to Anna.Mangahas@cityofchicago.org.

Liam - Bio

Liam has been a practicing criminal defense attorney for approximately 13 years. He has been admitted to practice law in every state court jurisdiction in Illinois and in many United States federal district courts throughout the country. He is a CPS parent living in the Mayfair Park neighborhood with his wife and his three young sons. Liam currently serves as an Assistant Appellate Defender for the State of Illinois, which is a public defender appointed to represent indigent clients who have been convicted of criminal offenses at the appellate court level. Liam is a criminal justice reformer and a staunch advocate for police accountability and transparency measures because he has the courage and energy to fight for safety and justice for every community. But Liam understands that the citizenry of the 17th Police District encompasses a diversity of viewpoints, and he believes that Police District Council Members should facilitate constructive dialogue in good faith with all stakeholders to build the level of trust that is necessary improve public safety outcomes for everyone.