

**City of Chicago**  
**District Council Meeting Minutes 018**  
**COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Type:** Regular Public Meeting

**Meeting Date:** 11/26/2024

**Meeting Location:** 2024 N Kenmore

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:02 PM

**Attendance and Quorum:**

**Chair:** Councilor Brad Kessler Present

**Community Engagement:** Councilor Karen Kane Present

**Nominating Committee:** Councilor Robert Johnson Present

**Quorum:** YES

Moment of silence for Officer Martinez who lost his life while on duty during a traffic stop in Chatham.

**Councilor Kessler** called motion to **Approve** the below listed meeting minutes:

- October 22, 2024 Regular Public meeting minutes
- November 4, 2024 Special Meeting
- November 14, 2024 Special Meeting

**Councilor Kane voted YES**

**Councilor Johnson voted YES**

**Councilor Kessler voted YES**

The “Yes” stands and the 22 October Regular Public Meeting, November 4 and November 14 special meeting minutes have been properly approved and accepted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin Toobin, lives on Wells Street: shared story of a woman who was victim of criminal assault while at atm, was badly bruised during assault and was invited to share her story in this meeting.

Mel Jones, Gold Coast neighbor: If there's an interest in working on reducing recidivism for crimes along Clark, please check in w/ Mel Jones who is launching a program w/ Clark / Division Collective

#### **COUNCILOR KESSLER UPDATES:**

- Recognition of State Senator Sara Feigenholtz and CCPSA Commissioner Angel Rubi-Navarajo
- Prioritizing decreasing retail thefts and bring it to the attention of, city and state electeds
  - Focus on misdemeanors (theft <\$300) met w/ SA to encourage focus on misdemeanors and possibly bring back misdemeanor court, only 10 attorneys though
  - Met w/ Scott Spears in CPD to understand how retail theft is being handled
  - Confusion remains around whether suspects w/ domestic in their background can be arrested immediately and brought to court within 24 hours
  - Task force worked on practical guide to prevent retail theft w/ Larry Sachs
  - Leo Schmidt of Cook County Police is focused on River North and State Street (1st District though) Councilor Kessler working to push for more attention to other parts of 018, and not just River North
  - Met w/ Cook County Commissioner Kam Buckner to consider strengthening loopholes in SafeT Act
  - Spoke at other retailer collective meetings to encourage retailers to consistently call police when retail theft is happening. Busy stores and bureaucratic elements often prevent / dissuade retailers from making those calls to police
- Attended presentation by Joyce Foundation at last Police Board meeting on workforce allocation study. Matrix Consulting Group is org selected to conduct the study within the coming year. Started on 11/1/2024 and should conclude on 11/1/2025 and results made available 10 days afterwards. Civic Consulting Alliance is also working on community policing and alternate responses to crisis.
- Brought stakeholders and CCPSA staff together to Chicago Childrens Advocacy Center, an npo that house all the agencies working on trafficking and child pornography cases, co locating all the stakeholders in one place has led to higher prosecution rates of these kinds of crimes

#### **COUNCILOR JOHNSON UPDATES**

- Attended District Council Annual Meeting on November 16 with 41 other District Councilors. Spent time in small groups discussing outreach, had lunch and met w/ Commissioners. District Councilors shared concerns and priorities w/ Commissioners before they met w/ Supt Snelling and his command staff to finalize CPD goals. Also shared feedback on CPD 2025 budget with the Commissioners.
- On Friday, November 22, Nominating Committee met to interview 3 candidates to replace vacant commissioner seat for west side attorney. Next steps include meeting w/ Nominating Committee to review scores and decide which of 3 candidates to move forward. After that, on December 6<sup>th</sup> open meeting to vote publicly on candidates moving forward.

- Safety Collaboration Task Force, rather than solving problems, instead taking input and best practices on problems and concerns that are common. Will also collect data and resources to consistently report crimes. Big vision is to improve vitality, health and prosperity of 18<sup>th</sup> District neighbors. Membership includes 13 community groups along w/ individuals not connected to a community group. Structure of task force is quarterly meetings and small groups as needed between quarterly meetings. Digging into work and goals in January 2025.

## **COUNCILOR KANE UPDATES**

- Shared info about 23 year old who shot Officer Martinez: convicted felon since he was 18 yo for another violent crime. Was released 2 weeks before he shot Ofcr Martinez. Will County prosecutor worked to detain him, instead was released on EM, Will County SA believes there are loopholes in SAFE-T Act that allowed his release on EM despite him having previous felony. Will County SA is suing the state to encourage closing loophole
- Following a case about an individual involved with drug sale at Clark / LaSalle. Arrest occurred on 3/13/2024, seven court dates attended by court advocates, case ended with a plea deal and sentencing was on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Extended a big thank you to all the court advocates who diligently attended the seven court dates.
- Attended 8 hours of the 10 hour CPD budget hearing. Shared analysis from Better Government Association on Mayor's CPD budget released in October. Changes are still being made based on feedback from budget hearing. See slide deck here: <https://www.bettergov.org/2024/11/12/chicago-police-department-bga-policy-2025-budget-snapshot/>

## **Commander Barz and Seargent Koenig (Shenk?) 018<sup>th</sup> Police District Public Safety Update**

- Incident on 11/6, 2 students were battered, detectives working on an arrest and prosecution, lots of tips coming in and search warrants issued
- Light Festival this past weekend. 900,000 people in attendance, no incidents occurred
- Struggling w/ commercial burglaries
  - Worked w/ Area 3 detectives and arrested a prolific commercial burglar in 018
  - Will push to charge the highest possible charge on as many incidents as possible
- Gas station crimes on the rise
  - People in a rush, leave car running and doors unlocked when people run in
  - Crime of opportunity that can be easily prevented
- Also working on closing down open drug sales around State and Division
  - Undercover officers from Narcotics Division deployed to pose as buyers
  - Goal is multiple buys to establish a pattern of practice and bring about the highest charge possible
- Shared a number of safety tips
  - Don't hand over phone to anyone asking to borrow it quickly
  - Wait in establishments vs waiting outside for ride shares
  - Stay in well lit areas and avoid being alone the later it gets
- Future of prosecution is technology
  - Thanked Sen. Feigenholtz for consistent advocacy to obtain funds for pods, cameras and trackers

#### Q&A w/ Commander Barz

- Constituent shared story of being assaulted while at Chase bank atm. Cmdr Barz offered support in ensuring case is assigned.
- Sarah Feigenholtz is hoping to open up the SAFE T Act to improve the domestic violence loopholes w/ the support of new State's Attorney and CPD. She is willing to hear more feedback about how to strengthen SAFE T Act.
- Commissioner Rubi Navarajo shared kudos to 018 District Councilors, opportunity to apply for law enforcement technology, sentiments about keeping the constitutional policing staff and expressed eagerness to work w/ 018 District Councilors and their constituents.
- Mel Jones: requested a discussion w/ Cmdr Barz to reduce recidivism on Clark / Division specific to the drug market, would like to include additional stakeholders from CTA, hospitals in this discussion.

#### **Next Meeting, December 17 w/ guest speaker State's Attorney Elect Eileen Burke**

**Location:** Moody Bible Institute

**Meeting ended at:** 7:36 PM