

**CITY OF CHICAGO  
DISTRICT COUNCIL 002  
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
MEETING MINUTES**

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**Meeting Type:** ☒ Regular ☐ Special ☐ Closed

**Meeting Date:** Saturday, May 17, 2025

**Meeting Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:11 PM

**Location:** Timothy Community Corporation, 4351 S. Drexel Blvd, Chicago, IL

**Chair:** Acting Chair Alexander Perez (filling in for Ephraim Lee)

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### **Attendance & Quorum**

According to the Open Meetings Act (OMA), the quorum requires at least two of three members present **in person**.

<b>District Council Member</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Chair: Ephraim Lee	Absent
Nominator: Marquinn McDonald	Present (In-person)
Community Engagement: Alexander Perez	Present (In-person)

**Quorum Met:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

Additional Attendees:

- Councilor Dion McGill (Noted Guest)
  - Guest: Tisa Morris, Chief of Community Engagement, Cook County State's Attorney's Office
  - Approx. 30–40 community members in attendance throughout
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### **Agenda Overview**

1. Roll Call & Quorum Confirmation
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (April 17, 2024)
3. District Council Reports
4. Community Feedback on District Strategic Plans (DSPs)
5. Discussion on Youth Engagement & Violence Prevention
6. Guest Presentation – Cook County State's Attorney's Office
7. Public Comment

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## 1. Administrative Matters

- **Roll Call & Quorum:**  
Councilors Perez and McDonald present; quorum confirmed.
  - **Approval of Previous Minutes:**  
April 17, 2024, meeting minutes approved unanimously.
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## 2. District Council Reports

### a. Nominating Committee – Report by Councilor Marquinn McDonald

- Most recent committee meeting postponed; new date pending.
- No substantive updates.

### b. Community Engagement – Report by Councilor Alexander Perez

- **Self-Defense Course:**  
Recognized Councilor McDonald's successful women's self-defense event. Plans to expand.
  - **“Community & Canvas” Events:**
    - It will be held across two Friday evenings; approx. 35 attendees total.
    - Activities included painting, music, and food alongside education on DSPs.
    - Surveys were administered to gather community feedback on policing strategies.
  - **Youth Summit Announcement:**
    - Scheduled for **June 3, 2025**, at **4930 S. Cottage Grove Ave** (Village Leadership Academy campus).
    - Target Audience: Middle and high school students.
    - Focus Areas: Violence prevention, job resources, and youth empowerment.
    - Event Partners: Village Leadership Academy and others.
    - The VLA building to serve as a future community center under Perez's leadership.
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## 3. District Strategic Plans (DSPs) – Community Engagement

### Background:

- DSPs are the framework for community-informed policing.
- Historically limited public engagement: current efforts aim to reform this.

### Community Engagement Strategies:

- Physical and digital surveys distributed (also available via QR code).
- Surveys gather input on public safety priorities and DSP familiarity.

#### **Key Feedback Themes:**

- Youth-related concerns remain largely unaddressed in DSPs.
- Successful but defunded programs (e.g., high school open gyms) highlighted.
- Emphasis on including youth directly in DSP design.
- Recognition that systemic adult-driven issues often affect youth outcomes.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Encourage survey completion (digital and physical).
- Summer outreach planned at fieldhouses and park districts.

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## **4. Guest Presentation**

**Presenter:** Tisa Morris, Chief of Community Engagement

**Organization:** Cook County State's Attorney's Office (SAO)

#### **Overview of SAO:**

- Staff: Approx. 1,500 (attorneys, investigators, victim support personnel).
- Functions: Criminal/civil cases, victim services, juvenile/adult court jurisdiction.

#### **Specialized Programs:**

- **Diversion Programs:**
    - Retail theft, peer jury, and juvenile diversion.
    - New firearm possession alternatives: program route instead of charges for valid but expired FOID/CCL holders.
  - **Reproductive Rights:**
    - New unit for addressing threats and intimidation related to reproductive healthcare.
  - **Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault:**
    - Specialized, multi-jurisdictional teams.
  - **Wrongful Convictions Unit:**
    - Fully staffed with dedicated resources.
  - **Training:**
    - New State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke is prioritizing robust training and accountability.
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## 5. Community Concerns: Felony Review Bypass Pilot

### Program Overview:

- **Active in CPD Districts 5 and 7.**
- Allows officers to file certain gun charges (e.g., UUW) without immediate SAO review.
- Intended to reduce delays in returning officers to duty.

### Community Concerns:

- **Transparency & Oversight:**
  - Program introduced without community or council input.
  - Viewed as targeting majority-Black districts (Englewood, etc.).
  - Concerns about civil rights violations and due process risks.
- **Potential Harms:**
  - Arrest records can cause long-term harm (employment, housing, family).
  - Risk of abuse (e.g., planted evidence).
- **SAO Response:**
  - Cases are still reviewed by judges; no plan to expand beyond possession charges at this time.
  - Community input will influence pilot evaluation.
  - Acknowledged historic mistrust and vowed better communication.

### Broader Perspectives:

- Divides within communities on public safety approach:
    - Elders may support stricter enforcement.
    - Younger residents and reform advocates call for prevention and opportunity-based solutions.
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## 6. Public Comment

### Highlights:

- **Felony Review Bypass Criticisms:**
  - Sharon Shapiro submitted written comments citing:
    - Violations of the consent decree.
    - Targeted policing.
    - Risks to due process and increased community harm.
    - Urged the District Council to formally oppose the policy.
- **Procedural Note:**
  - Comments were read **after** the guest speaker's departure.
  - The council committed to forwarding all feedback to the SAO.

**Announcements:**

- **Youth Summit – June 3, 2025** (See Section 2).
  - **Documentary Screening:**
    - “Incident” to screen at the South Black History Museum on **Wednesday at 7:00 PM**, followed by Q&A with the filmmaker.
    - Flyers were distributed at the meeting.
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**Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:11 PM**