

2025 Aldermanic Engagement Report

Overview

The 8th District Council (DC8) is pleased to share the following report outlining the details of our recent aldermanic engagement project. This project consisted of a series of conversations held with the various alderpeople that represent the residents of the [8th police district, Chicago Lawn](#). Over the past 4 months, Jason Huff, Chair of the DC8, met with almost all of the alderpersons that represent residents in this district to discuss ways to improve the relationship between those elected officials and DC8. Our goal in 2025 is to continue building on the successes of the last 23 months; while still identifying effective ways to improve the way we serve the residents of the 8th district.

In total, we held 8 conversations with alder persons [Ramirez \(12\)](#), [Quinn \(13\)](#), [Gutiérrez \(14\)](#), [Lopez \(15\)](#), [Moore \(17\)](#), [Curtis \(18\)](#), [Rodriguez \(22\)](#), and [Tabares \(23\)](#). These conversations were guided by a list of 8 questions that assessed the alders' view of the district council's roll, as well as their recommendations for improving our partnerships. All these conversations took place in-person at the various alderpersons' offices. A staff member attended all the meetings and attempted to capture the discussion live. Below you will find a simplified transcript of the conversations. All of the alders were given a preview of the conversation and were asked to make any corrections to the record as to avoid misrepresentation. You may find the list of questions at the end of this report.

Aldermanic Responses by Question

1. If you were to give the 8th District Council a grade heading into 2025 on the work we have done, what grade would it be and why?

Alder person	Ward	Response
J. Ramirez	12	I appreciate the frequency of emails and ongoing communication. I appreciate that you rotated around the community to host meetings. It seems like your district council is strong. It seems like you work well together and put together some diverse events and opportunities. I think the guest speakers are something that we are excited to see. I know your communication and rotation has been more consistent. We are hosting a “coffee with the alderman” event in the area of the 8th that is in the ward. We would love if you joined us.

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M. Quinn	13	I would give you an A. Lines of communication are always good. We have had a good collaboration in the short time we have worked together.
J. Gutiérrez	14	I think you have done a good job by rotating the meetings around the various communities. You made them accessible and have included various topics, and diverse speakers. I think the low attendance is the only concern. I know you have tried to change that. I think that is something we all need to work on improving, not just you. Our office, the DCs, and our local partners need to promote your work. We need to see if we can do door-to-door outreach. We can even share the info (on DCs) with schools and other organizations near where the meeting takes place.
R. Lopez	15	I think the 8th DC is probably at an A minus. The minus is only because of some partnerships. You are only as good as the partners you are engaging with. You have 9 aldermen and thousands of individuals. I think only having half of the aldermen behind you is a disservice. You have been active and opinionated in a way that is serving the city. I would like to see more engagement that better reflects the district. I know it is not for lack of effort.
D. Moore	17	I would say a B. I think based on media, Facebook, and other communications, I see you being active. But I do not think we have engaged enough with each other. I would like to meet to communicate what is going on. If we could do quarterly meetings, we could be more engaged. There is a community event every 3rd Saturday of the quarter (January, April, July, and October). They usually go from 10:30am until early afternoon. It would be great to see you guys at those quarterly community meetings. There are a lot of folks from Chicago Lawn there. I know there are some issues with the trust factor for that population, but it would be good to see you there.
D. Curtis	18	I would say a B. But only because there is always room for improvement. I think that you all jumped in as soon as you understood your roles. Other alders have said that they have not heard from their DCs. You have always been engaging. I am hoping that this is reflected to the CCPSA. Others should be looking at you to see how it is done.
M. Rodriguez	22	I do not do grades. It is a matter of principle. With that said, I will say that Al, is one of my go-to-people for any kind of matter. Whether Streets and Sanitation, or to check-in on something. He has always kept an open line of communication. I also appreciate how hard you try and communicate, Jason. I have not had as much interaction with the third councilor, but I am looking forward to it. About 2 thirds of my district is within the 10th police district. I think that we want to improve our participation in your meetings too. We can do a better job at being present and engaged. We are meeting with the Vittum Park Civic Association. The topics they included in their meetings were aligned with our focus. Please

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		include us in anything you do at Vittum Park, or the Sleepy Hollow or Leclair Courts.
S. Tabares	23	A+. The 8th District Council definitely gets a high grade. The reason being that they are engaged in the community. They host a lot of events. They do a lot of community engagement in the district, and particularly in the 23rd Ward. They listen, are responsive, follow up, and share the community's comments with the Commander. The DC is very collaborative. They engage with all 9 alders. I want to continue to partner up with them, in the ward, since they are strong leaders. They represent their district well.

2. What areas of improvement does the 8th District Council need to work on since our inception in May of 2023?

Alder person	Ward	Response
J. Ramirez	12	I think you are doing the right thing now. Our office is working on designating a representative to attend your meetings and have more direct communications with you.
M. Quinn	13	I do not have anything specific to offer. It's been really good for our period of time.
J. Gutiérrez	14	Increasing neighbor participation for sure. Going door to door could be good. We can reach out to the PAC, BAC and LSCs in each school. I think the parents and volunteers could be good allies and could help us spread information. Passing out flyers after school could also work. Having translation would be good eventually, once there is more consistent attendance from Spanish speakers.
R. Lopez	15	I think that many districts are having issues with community engagement and getting the word out. Some districts like yourself are working hard. I also think that the CCPSA needs to standardize the communication that goes out. I do not always get timely communication about upcoming meetings from all the District Councils I have in my ward. For example, CAPS has a yearly calendar that we get in advance. I think that will help to get people to show up. I think being able to have those things published in advance, and coordinating with the other committees and groups in your district. I think changing timeframes might work. I've told DCs that it might help to start doing things in the mornings or middle of day.
D. Moore	17	Being included in the quarterly meetings I mentioned, and making sure we are circulating marketing material about the District Council to the community. We have to share information repeatedly to make sure folks are learning. We want to put info on our social media, website, and any outreach. We know this project is not about repeating the work of CAPS. I want community to have a place to share negative and positive experiences with the police. I know some residents have often shared positive

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		experiences about working with CPD with me. We have to let people know that the DCs are venues for receiving negative experiences. We also do a "coffee, cop, and breakfast" conversation with all our districts. We can include you on ours.
D. Curtis	18	I do not think there are huge changes. I think you could all come back together after events and figure out what you can make better. But honestly, based on your energy, there are not a lot of things I would do differently. The general public perception is divided. However, you have been able to maintain the center.
M. Rodriguez	22	All the DCs are still figuring things out. Also, you all can learn from one another. I think continuing to come together and sharing experiences helps.
S. Tabares	23	Police Council members must engage in challenging conversations with the community regarding their concerns and distrust of the police to find common ground. The district council needs to find effective ways to change the public perception of police officers, emphasizing that they are here to serve and protect the community. It is crucial to overcome the "us versus them" mentality, and to begin healing and rebuilding trust. I would encourage all District Councils to attend police roll calls during First, Second and Third Watches and speak to police officers about their mission and goals.

3. What is your current viewpoint of District Council and Commissioners? Has it helped, hinder, or made a difference in policing and community building?

Alder person	Ward	Response
J. Ramirez	12	In general, we think the DCs need to do a better job at creating spaces that are welcoming to all viewpoints.
M. Quinn	13	I think it is on the right track. Having meaningful discussion matters. When you called be about a business and their issues, we were able to have a good conversation. We started a cutting-edge

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		<p>legislation on the smoke shop issue. I think you have done the right thing by “going where the people are”. I think finding issues that are important, like on the Superintendent Search meeting at Kennedy and the issue of traffic stops at the Mayor’s Mansion (European Chalet) ... It is good to see that. I cannot speak on what other alders do, or how they feel. I can say that you all have been rock solid when it comes to offering opportunities to collaborate! You are already part of the community.</p>
J. Gutiérrez	14	<p>I think folks who know about it were helped by it. As I said, there is a need to broaden the outreach. We need to continue working on the ways police and community interact with each other. Response delays have hurt constituents’ perspective of police. We need to continue addressing this. I think DC8 has done a good job at trying to address this, and there is a lot of stuff happening right now, but it is worth addressing this. CCPSA should also come to our events in the various wards. If not the DCs and Commissioners, someone from your office needs to come to these events. I know working weekends and evenings can run into issues, but it is important to be there.</p>
R. Lopez	15	<p>I think that broadly, this configuration was supposed to hit “reset” on police and community relationships. Unfortunately, we have seen an intentional attempt to sabotage the spirit of the ordinance. Two thirds of the DCs are abolitionist who do not want to engage with police. Commissioners, aside from a few, are there for their own agendas. This is an experiment, and we need to see if it is meeting its purpose. As I said in the budget hearing, if the system is not improved, I would be glad to push for the dissolution of the program. There are some districts that are doing the right thing, some are trying to do the right thing, but have roadblocks. I know these are elected positions, but many folks are hyper political. I also think there is political intentionality with how the Commission acts. They act in a way that tries to create a specific outcome. The goal of this is to have all community see police in the way we see them in the southwest side. It is about creating respect for law enforcement. Also, a vast majority of time, many council members do not show up to their work. The CCPSA and District Councils need to make some decisions. You are too small to be big, and too big to be small. There needs to be a decision.</p>
D. Moore	17	<p>I think we are still in the education phase of the project. Any kind of engagement is good. It is hard to say if it has been effective, we need to have more engagement. If we get to a point 4 years from now, and we are still not engaging the community, then I would speak on that. However, if there is strong engagement, then we definitely want to highlight that. I think it is good to have gradual, realistic goals, for engagement. Then you can evaluate how things have evolved.</p> <p>Jason: We have the largest district population wise. Would you be open to add more district councils?</p>

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		Ald Moore: I think even with a large district; it is all about the goals. First you need to show that you have set goals and reached them. That way you can say “we set this goal, we met that goal, and we could do more if we had more people.”
D. Curtis	18	Be on both sides. Take care of 60,000 people, all of their different views. This has helped. It is another tool to bridge the gap between police and community. I think it has done good.
M. Rodriguez	22	I think it has definitely helped. There are obviously folks who are detractors of the project, but I am a big supporter. The DCs interact with their elected officials and interact to the community to be a net positive.
S. Tabares	23	All the District Councils are elected. They are accountable to their residents who elected them every term. Whatever ideology they believe in, they will face election. I am proud of the Councilors who represent the 8th district. We align and I am excited to work with them going forward. The 8th District Council has helped neighborhoods in my ward to bridge the gap with police. Our Councilmen are approachable and accessible. For example, we hosted an event with speakers from CDOT to discuss an intersection that is lacking pedestrian and motor safety. Jason was there to help answer questions and give the issue another voice. He both lives in the community and also takes input from the residents. It’s a testament to how the DCs help with public safety even beyond crime—in this case about traffic.

4. What events or activities can we work with you as political leaders to improve relationships between CPD and citizens?

Alder person	Ward	Response
J. Ramirez	12	Future collaboration opportunities could focus on events that help residents understand what can be done after a robberies or shooting. I think figuring out how we can show presence. I know that the catalytic converters issue is popular. I know that there is a plaza on Archer and Ashland where there are robberies often. Some of these businesses want to get things like cameras or gates to close their shop.
M. Quinn	13	I think helping us execute the events that we are already doing. For example, the Irish South Side parade. We have done things like the “Touch-A-Truck” event which was a success. It was the best event! The Commander loved it. We are doing great things. We bring the community, the commander, and the residents to just enjoy things! To reinforce the relationships that we already have. Things like National Night Out was also great. You need ways of bringing people together!
J. Gutiérrez	14	We are trying to convene a safety meeting for Gage Park. Jason: We could do a training for how 9/11 calls are prioritized. We had someone come out to explain this early in our tenure. We could work together to do a joint event.

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		Ald. Gutiérrez: Agree. We can continue to partner in events and initiatives. Not all communities are equally willing to engage with police. We also know undocumented residents have concerns about calling the police since they fear having to disclose their status.
R. Lopez	15	One of you in the DC should be with us at every event we offer. Simply having presence and a table makes a difference. There doesn't need to be any giveaways either.
D. Moore	17	At Marquette Park, one of the churches does a free food pantry every Tuesday. I think it's at 6 or 7pm. Definitely Coffee, cop, and breakfast. We also think that the Southside Memorial Day parade. We could identify CPD and other folks who are Veterans. We give awards to 4 or 6 people. You might know some folks who we could honor. Also, the quarterly community meetings. We need to do a bit more coordination, but we want to do another round of the Taste of Marquette Park. That would be another great event.
D. Curtis	18	I would not mind inviting a representative from the DC to be at my community events. I think this is a good opportunity to reach out to people who might be uncomfortable reaching out to police officers, or alderperson. I think we could also work on having an event for the community that shares education on what you have been doing. Tell them this is not "pro-police" or "anti-police" thing, it is about building a bridge. You could come to our shredathon! It is one of our biggest events.
M. Rodriguez	22	The best attended meetings are the Hearst community meeting and the Vittum Civic Alliance. Possibly the CAPS meetings. There's great leadership there.
S. Tabares	23	The Councilors go above and beyond. They work closely with the alders. They also have great relationships with the commander and the police district. We have already done a lot of events, and we will continue working with our councilmen and our police district. We have been working really hard to advocate for the formation of a new police district, and they have been helping us push for this.

5. In 2025, can we work with you and your office to reach citizens by hosting community conversations with you in your ward to get their feedback about policing?

Alder person	Ward	Response
J. Ramirez	12	Yes, we are open to it. Come to the Coffee with Alder on that area. We are open to cohosting walks around the neighborhood in the spring.
M. Quinn	13	Yes, of course. We do a coffee date with the senior advisory council. We constantly hear about how the senior community wants to see policing.

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J. Gutiérrez	14	Yes, we are looking to do something in Monarcas School, we want to invite some of those school communities to be a part of it. We can also have other joint events. We're open to having more check-in meetings with you all, but we also want to continue attending your meetings.
R. Lopez	15	Of course. I'd be happy to do that for seniors, youth, and the residents in-between.
D. Moore	17	Yes. We can start by doing some of the stuff we mentioned just now. [See question 4].
D. Curtis	18	Yes. For the Shreathon you can print 200 or more flyers. It is Saturday the 22nd, starting at 11am. It's at Pete's Parking lot. Even for earthday and other events. You can also create a questionnaire for residents who attend community events.
M. Rodriguez	22	22nd ward has the highest number of non-citizen residents. So, we use the term residents. But yes, we are committed to being engaged with you. I also think we can work on not being so siloed. We could potentially do something on McDonald's on 47th. A lot of seniors hang out there. We can do March or April.
S. Tabares	23	Let's continue to collaborate and host events for the residents of the 23rd Ward. I want to highlight that the District Councilmen initiated a petition to save ShotSpotter, which gathered over 2,000 signatures. This effort garnered media attention, and they were interviewed by the press.

6. What are some local community leaders or organizations that we should reach out to and work with moving forward?

Alder person	Ward	Response
J. Ramirez	12	Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC) and the Southwest collective. I know that Dixon does the community bike rides. Also, Midway Chamber of Commerce and Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council, who manage the SSA corridor Archer.
M. Quinn	13	I think you are already doing a good job at partnering with the neighborhood watches and chambers of commerce. You do it throughout the district, but especially in our ward.
J. Gutiérrez	14	Schools in the ward. Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, SWOP, and Greater southwest development corp (GSDC).
R. Lopez	15	SANAAD. Fatimah Abu-ed. They would help with the Arab Chicagoan community. They are a good group on Central Park and new Real Vally grocery store. Rabi Funye on 66th and Kedzie Ave. 64th and California also has a really engaged congregation. Greater Southwest Development Corporation. Father Homero Sanchez, at St. Rita (63rd and Washtenaw).
D. Moore	17	Reach out to IMAN. Thier ED is Rami Nashishabi. I think you can meet with Jeff Bartow from SWOP. There is also a church on 66th and Kedzie. Reach out to Beth Shalom and Rabbi Shandrea Funnye. On 71st and Talman. Reach out to CROE—Coalition for

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		the Remembrance of Elijah Mohammed. Mary Mother of Mercy too.
D. Curtis	18	Scottsdale Neighborhood Watch. Wrightwood Civic community association. GADA safety.
M. Rodriguez	22	Vittum and Hearst. The Southwest Collective is another organization I've worked with a lot. They have a good focus in Archer Heights and Garfield Ridge. They were influential in my decision to support adding a district to the area covered by the 8th police district.
S. Tabares	23	Violetta Sosa. Beat facilitator for 822. That is where Officers Huesca and Vasquez-Lasso were shot. Her and her sister, Lucina help run Artopia, an organization that advocates in bringing more cultural events to the southwest side. The Midway Chamber of Commerce. They engage with local businesses. Also, the new school board member, Angel Gutierrez. You could attend a local school forum. DARE is missing an "officer friendly" volunteer. We can collaborate on a program that does anti-gang recruitment through the DARE program. It happens at St. Daniel the Prophet school. We can also do bowling event with students and 8th District CAPS.

7. Working with youth/teens is one of our goals for 2025, besides the current "teen workshops" what other ideas or suggestions do you have to work with teens?

Alder person	Ward	Response
J. Ramirez	12	I think that it might be good to let the youth lead. You can work on an activation of a site that has been a target of gun violence. Jason: We thought of doing a lunch for the kids and officers. Ald Ramirez: BYNC has a "hoops in the hood" program and kids play with the officers. Jason: We have done a soccer "cup" that's been really popular.
M. Quinn	13	At our office we try to promote summer jobs and internships. We want to promote opportunities for children. They take care of things around the neighborhood. Things like removing graffiti, eliminating rats, cleaning snow. Etc. We are also helping with Ald. Tabares and others to see one of the unused lots
J. Gutiérrez	14	I think hosting a workshop at Curie would be beneficial. We work with Mr. Penuelas directly. There are baseball and other sport leagues that go on. Like the Archer Little League. Agree that something cross district could also work.
R. Lopez	15	Sure, I can send some contacts. We need to combat the narrative that law enforcement is the enemy of young people. Teens and young people need to learn that officers are like everyone else. They need to see it as human beings. There needs to be ways of interacting with officers in a human way. We used to do dodgeball tournaments with young people and officers. We could do a

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		pickleball or dodgeball tournament in Gage Park. We did a camping in the park at Gage Park last year. The department can help set that up. Remember that many of the community people have not left their block for something fun.
D. Moore	17	Shawn Monroe leads Small Fry—a basketball league that meets at Marquette Park. Engaging those people would be helpful. Also, there are soccer leagues that are held there. Chad from the Park District can tell you. Develop a relationship with Catalyst Maria. You can also do cross district competitive sporting games. That way community and officers are working together to compete against another district.
D. Curtis	18	It is tough. I recommend you do something that brings them there anyway, something like a casual basketball game or something.
M. Rodriguez	22	Work with Oliva from VPCA. I think also see what's going on within the high schools. Youth have their own perspective. Meet them where they are at.
S. Tabares	23	Bring back officer friendly and do the DARE program.

8. Our ordinance mandates that we collaborate in “the development and implementation of community policing initiatives”. One way to improve CPD’s capacity is to find an alternative model that redirects parking violations to departments like Streets and Sans or Finance. How does this idea sound to you? Would you be supportive of a program that achieved this diversion?

Alder person	Ward	Response
J. Ramirez	12	Ald Ramirez: definitely a big need. I think that because CPD takes such a big chunk of the budget, we would have to reallocate the some of the money. I think we can expand on what streets and sans does. We are facing a huge budget deficit, so some of the funds must be reallocated. I think that Finance and Streets and San have time and capacity limitation. We in the office get a bunch of calls related to parking. Jason: I am also thinking of an automated notification system for calls of service. Something that let’s folks know that their call for service has been answered. It’s tough logistically, but it’s something we’ll work on.
M. Quinn	13	Ald. Ramirez: I have a list of changes I’d like to see to empower the Streets and Sans superintendents to help on this issue. I definitely want to be part of the conversation. My sanitations supervisor has ideas to deal with immediate concerns. It is also important to connect with the Commander and the Department to see how they envision this playing out. I agree that this issue should be framed around response times

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J. Gutiérrez	14	Definitely. We need to alleviate CPD's bulk. This could be especially beneficial and safe for vehicles that are left abandoned. Having immediate tows, without CPD needed would help a lot.
R. Lopez	15	<p>I do not think it should be framed as a burden for CPD to enforce the law. All three agencies have ability to enforce. It is not just about enforcement, sometimes CPD does need to come out. For example, if it is a criminal matter. Commercial and truck vehicles are not always going to be towed by Finance. While it might feel burdensome, it might be important to the residents to see the officers enforcing parking violations. It is also about manpower. If the City is serious about this, they need to beef up Finance to actually send people to enforce the ticketing issues. Right now, the aldermanic offices are the ones that request enforcement, but that is only one day or so out of the month. In my ward, I can take you to places where large trucks are parked and when I call CPD, they say call streets and sans, and when I call them, they tell me to call CPD. We need the standoff to end. To answer your question, we need more details, but we do need things to change. We created a warning sign that my office puts on cars. If we are not getting enforcement, we need to make people think that there will be enforcement.</p> <p>Under Rahm, we had the super-ticket writers. I have always called for 311 to evolve to have citizen reports of violations. That would cut down on man-power issues. People could report parking violations. It would be similar to a "citizens arrest" where I can certify that I did it.</p>
D. Moore	17	I think that we have to look into alternatives. Especially privatization. There is potential revenue missing from those tickets not being written. We have to do an analysis on this. Once we figure that out, you can count on my support.
D. Curtis	18	I would be in full support. But be sure to showcase that the community brought up this issue. It has to be something that constituents care about both in District 8 and 19.
M. Rodriguez	22	Sounds amazing. I am a believer in having non-police first response on mental health crises. In Albuquerque, they have millions of dollars to invest in these programs. It has shown to decrease police response times. There is an effort to change the law on parking violations. Police could now ticket out of state parked vehicles, and S&S could tow them. We could potentially deputize private enforcement companies with union jobs.
S. Tabares	23	I would be interested in learning more and hearing from the heads of those departments first.

Questions asked

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1. If you were to give the 8th District Council a grade heading into 2025 on the work we've done, what grade would it be and why?
2. What area of improvements does the 8th District Council need to work on since our inception in May of 2023?
3. What is your current viewpoint of District Council and Commissioners? Has it helped, hinder, or made a difference in policing and community building?
4. What events or activities can we work with you as political leaders to improve relationships between CPD and citizens?
5. In 2025 can we work with you and your office to reach citizens by hosting community conversations with you in your ward to get their feedback about policing?
6. What are some local community leaders or organizations that we should reach out to and work with moving forward?
7. Working with youth/teens is one of our goals for 2025, besides the current "teen workshops" what other ideas or suggestions do you have to work with teens?
8. Our ordinance mandates that we collaborate in "the development and implementation of community policing initiatives," various district councils are exploring ways to redirect low priority calls for service away from CPD. One way to improve CPD's capacity is to find an alternative model that redirects parking violations to departments like Streets and Sans or Finance. How does this idea sound to you? Would you be supportive of a program that achieved this diversion?