

CITY OF CHICAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 014
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: X Regular ☐ Special ☐ Closed

MEETING DATE: March 4, 2025

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: Haas Park, 2402 N. Washtenaw

MEETING START TIME: 6:00 pm

Attendance & Quorum

The OMA Meeting cannot take place without 2 out of 3 members present in person.

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Chris Laurent	Present: X Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominator: Ashley Vargas	Present: X Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement: David Orlikoff	Present: X Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes:X No: ☐

Approval of Minutes

Vote on minutes deferred to April meeting

Discussions

Guest speakers: Commander Melinda Linas and Area Chief William Betacourt

Community Submitted Questions

Questions are answered by Commander Linas unless indicated otherwise

1. How many investigatory traffic stops have there been and can you provide racial breakdowns
 - a. A point of litigation and cannot discuss that public forum. CCPSA and CPD are in discussions about a new policy. Questions and input can be share w/ district councilors to share w/ CCPSA. Also an Inspector General data dashboard that provides this info:
<https://igchicago.org/information-portal/public-safety/>
2. How many DUI saturation patrols have been conducted in 014, how many individuals stopped? How many arrested? Please provide a racial breakdown
 - a. Saturation patrols are performed by a different unit – traffic patrol unit conducts these so I don't have the data on these. To date, 2/7 DUI mission, cannot speak to the numbers and breakdown because it's traffic patrol unit data not 014's data.

3. Please provide an update on officers w/ known ties to extremism in 014, including Oath Keepers. Why is Sgt Nowacki retiring rather than being removed?
 - a. Shared GO 08-03 – Prohibition on Biased and Criminal Organization that prevents officer from these kinds of associations. Also part of Supt. Snelling's 2025 goals. Cannot discuss personal individual matters in public forum.
4. What concrete steps is 014 taking to address officers w/ ties to white supremacists and other extremist
 - a. Please see GO8-03. There are different bargaining units and unions depending on rank. I cannot choose who works in the 14th District and who doesn't. It falls under the rules of each collective bargaining agreement. An officer can bid to go to another district. Commanders do not get to handpick their officers. Allegations made by officers are subject
5. What are average response times in the 14th District? Please break down by priority level? How does this compare to other districts
 - a. OIG has a public safety dashboard – districts don't maintain this data. Councilors can submit a formal request through CCPSA and the department. Calls of service can mean several things – request for assistance related to a crime, it could also be just noticing something as someone is driving.
6. What are average response times for mental health calls in the 14th District?
 - a. No readily access to the data, about 38000 calls, includes all calls, can't filter out mental health calls necessarily, DCs should submit a formal request to CCPSA and CPD.
7. What steps is the 14th District doing to obtain a CARE unit? Do you believe the 14th District is needed?
 - a. CARE units are citywide, police and fire were removed in 2024 and don't participate in that alternate response. CARE is run by Chicago Department of Public Health now.
8. What steps is 014 taking to investigate and address the sexual assaults? What is the current status of these investigations including the ones going back to 2022?
 - a. Increased patrols both uniformed and covert operations
 - b. Assisting detective divisions - gathering video data, helping w/ interviews etc.
 - c. Processing of analyzing dna is crucial - it's been asked to be expedited, state rep Evelyn Delgado is in touch w/ state police to push for this to be expedited.
 - d. Shared stats on criminal sexual assaults over the past few years, asked DCs to submit data requests, reminded DCs there is GO1-11 to support getting data
9. How are the detectives keeping up w/ the investigations and keeping victims informed?
 - a. Area District Chief: Not directly responsible for this, shared that he believes Detective Division should provide updates to victims once a week throughout the investigations,

there are victim liaison detectives that reach out to the victims. There are concerns about not re-traumatizing victims.

- b. Commander Linas described structure – Area 5 Detectives investigate in all the districts in Area 5, and Detective Division is separate entity from 014 District. Detective Division is separate from the District level operations of 14th District
 - c. Commander referenced GO1-11 for guidance
 - d. Chief of Detectives provided info on victim services: CPD committed to investigate thoroughly, participates in several multi disciplinary initiatives like Illinois Medical District sexual response team that strives to reach out to survivors in a com[passionate, caring and trauma informed manner. Bureau of Detectives DNA Processing Unit and forensic labs w/ state and county have worked to systematically and comprehensively review, evaluate and solve sexual assaults and increase DNA testing options to increase the potential to identify and apprehend offenders. In 2024, CPD hosted 70 nurse practitioners for sexual assault trainings to continue building relationships between hospital staff and law enforcement. Also shared about the sexual assault incident notice which provides survivors w/ resources.
10. How many officers are assigned to tactical teams? Where are tactical teams located? Who is on the tactical teams? What criteria is used to determine their placement?
- a. Officer assignments and police personal strength is never shared for officer safety. Officers are assigned based on needs and recent crime trends. Referenced Special Order 0303-07 titled District Level Investigative Teams. Order covers general information about the tactical teams including their duties and responsibilities. It's available online and provided a copy to Councilors
11. How do you relate to Area 5? What are your dealings with Area 5? Can we meet the Area 5 District Chief?
- a. ADC Betacourt: Great relationship. Cmdr Linas reaches out for support when needed – extra gang units as needed, look at the capacity and send resources
 - b. Cmdr Linas: Yes, in day-to-day communication my lieutenants and I share intelligence, resources w/ area and neighboring district, we help each other quite a bit.
12. What is a regular cadence when you can meet with community members at District Council meetings throughout the year?
- a. For community - Challenging because of many informal community events
 - b. For district councils – it will be outlined in GO1-11 waiting for mayor sign off on this guiding doc.
 - c. For months officers weren't allowed in meetings, then we were then there was inner turmoil I was waiting to die down, we will see how we can go from here w/ GO1-11
13. What steps is Area 5 taking to address racial disparities with traffic stops?
- a. Officers are trained to do constitutional stops rather than racially based traffic stops. Ongoing deliberations prevent more sharing on this. The policy making is not a District level issue.

14. What barriers do you see in implementing a policy that formally limits low level offenses?
 - a. Deferred to the deliberations and a future guest to answer
15. Will you commit to giving a commitment to end pre-textual stops at a future public meeting on March 27?
 - a. We are district level leadership and would have to defer to our Superintendent to allow us to say anything on this topic
16. What are the 14th District's dealings w/ ICE? If and how is the 14th District working w/ ICE? Has ICE contacted the 14th District?
 - a. If a request is received by an officer from an ICE agent, lieutenant and deputy chief handle it. CPD does not assist w/ enforcing immigration law, or enforce w/ deportations, does not stop or arrest or detain based on immigration status.
 - b. CPD does not give access to anyone in custody and will not transfer for immigration purpose. Does not set up stops or anything like that

Meeting Attendee Q & A

Q1 What is 014 doing in terms of preventing further sexual assault incidents?

A1 Reminding people of simple safety measures – letting people know where you are going and when expected back, alder offices coordinating self-defense classes, 014 community safety has been putting up flyers w/ safety tips. More undercover officers are out there thanks to ADC Betacourt. Change ring camera settings to capture widest field to help possibly id something

Q2 Why were requested public safety devices denied?

A2 CCPSA staff will obtain answers and provide to District Councilors

Q3 Question about extremist officer in district and a question about trust (hard to hear)

A3 Betacourt: Discipline includes being stripped off duties, trust does need to be earned back, discipline does occur and many good officers get lumped in w/ bad officers, accountability and ongoing communication around bad behavior is what is needed. What I don't know, I can't fix, I encourage to always file complaints.

Linan: Sometimes Bureau of Internal Affairs is handling things and we are unaware of domestic violence things w/ officers

Q4 How can undocumented folks report things safely about Oath Keepers? Shared a Justice Watch statistic on UVISA. Why would an undocumented person report any sort of crime knowing that people w/ badges and guns have biases? Also shared experience about being in 014 district trying to report a crime for u-visa purposes and received uncooperative responses.

A4: Betacourt: U-visas are an immigration issue done through attorneys – we don't give out uvisa applications. In 10th District, undocumented people report crimes all the time, but we do not issue out u-visa

Q5: Disappointed that there are no Area 5 detectives here to answer questions about the sexual assaults. No one in attendance here is actively involved with the investigation of the sexual assaults – what's up? Were they invited here?

A5: The Detective Division is not involved w/ the District Council work. The Detective Division is a large department that needs plenty of time to schedule things. They have been at beat meetings and outdoor roll calls. We can plan something in the future. Deputy Director Glen Brooks: this is a District Council meeting. Detectives will be at the upcoming beat meetings. Councilor Vargas: We collected questions from the community including ones about sexual assaults and submitted them to Commander Linas, if she wanted to, she could have invited detectives knowing about the questions we submitted. Commander Linas: That's not the process in the general order.

Q5: Why was Nowicki in charge of other officers despite being a known Oath Keeper? How can we trust that BIA will fairly judge officers? How can we have faith in BIA?

A5: District Councilors can address through the Bureau of Investigative Affairs, CPD and CCPSA. BIA is different from district level. Councilor Vargas: You can bring these community concerns to the higher ups and appropriate people like Area Chief. It isn't just on the District Councilors. We all have a stake in this. Linas: I did bring this up to BIA and they said it was investigated. I will bring it up again.

Q6: Offered clarity about previous u-visa question, attendee is talking about the law enforcement certifications for u-vias that CPD can provide. The percentage is not where it should be. Offered suggestions about posting helpful safety tips from CAPS social media.

A6: Deputy Director Brooks: Records department has more information about the u-visa law enforcement certification and officers have recently been trained on that. Agreed to translate more flyers into different languages

Q7: How is it possible that so many missteps happened during the initial moments of a 911 call to a scene of a sexual assault? What trainings exist to respond and handle violent crimes? What protocols exist?

A7: If a complaint was made, it is for sure being investigated filed and we can't talk about current open investigations. The lack of protocol is likely what they are looking for.

Q8: Audio difficult to hear

A8: Main concern of 14th District is safety and security of the community. Investigators are still looking for more leads to get the justice needed. Apologized that attendee had a bad experience.

Back and forth between Commander Linas and Area Chief Betacourt and an attendee about extremist Oath Keepers in the 14th District.

Commander Linas, Area Chief Betacourt and CPD leave

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment 1: Said treated poorly when making reports at the police department. Does not understand why officers are so defensive. Had to wait 4 hours for a police report and also had to wait for 2 hours for a police report

Public comment 2: Staffer from elected official's office offered resources to sexual assault victims

Public comment 3: Encouraged everyone to keep fighting hold police accountable, keep pressuring them to face community, stands with victims

Public comment 4: Invitation to Women's Round March 15th round table - an opportunity to think about what kind of policy changes there need to be and how to partner and collaborate to create policy and laws that will support families.

Public comment 5: Request for more accountability from CPD detectives around investigation updates.

Public comment 6: Comments and questions about District Council stipends.

Councilor Vargas open to the idea of doing a future meeting or town hall w/ more Area 5 CPD staff.

Councilor Laurent apologized for internal distractions and committed to providing more information and resources on the sexual assaults. Also shared information on Office of Emergency Management and Communication and Smart 911.

Councilor Orlikoff sought feedback on what a future meeting w/ Area 5 staff should include. Constituents requested a timeline of investigation efforts so far, info about policies on how beat cops are using trauma informed care and info on policies on how victims should be treated

Councilor Vargas stated interest in working on a victim's bill of rights.

Constituent request for better email communication about future meetings.

Constituent request for accountability for harm Councilor Orlikoff experienced and expressed at February 1 meeting to be addressed.

Constituent shared concern about what happens to contact information given at sign in table.

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 5, 2025

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): Logan Square Library, 3030 W Fullerton

District Council ended the meeting at: 7:48 PM