

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

9. KENNETH

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

I have been a community organizer since 2006. During that time, I have organized in both English and Spanish, in neighborhoods like Pilsen and Albany Park. Whether organizing with undocumented youth or with election campaigns, the topic of police accountability has always been present: especially after the summer of 2020.

An important thread that always ran through these organizing experiences is that people feel safer when they get to know each other, their neighbors, their community. A District Councilor is perfectly positioned to use their seat to bring communities together, educate them about police accountability, and build an interdependent trust to create public safety through closer community.

I'm well known for keeping a level head and staying cool. This could help me be effective in mediating between the police and communities. I also believe in police accountability and would use my years of experience in organizing to stand up for individuals and communities facing police repression.

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

The most immediate accountability issue in 17th District is the presence of Oath Keepers in CPD. With political polarization on the rise, having right-wing extremists in uniform is a clear and present danger for all Chicagoans. Shining a light on this issue, and making communities aware of it, would be a top priority for me as a District Councilor.

Public safety issues around gangs are a long-standing issue that the police are ill-equipped to confront. I would make it a priority to focus on working with violence interrupters to prevent or de-escalate violence. Again, public safety is also about getting the community out and together. To that end, I would help organize "space activations" and other events to bring the communities out, especially in areas where violence have recently occurred, to get people talking to each other and rebuilding a sense of confidence and ownership over a given block or neighborhood.

In addition, these accountability and public safety issues can also be opportunities to pull in neighborhood organizations to participate and help get more groups involved in contributing to our safer communities.

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

As an organizer, I am very accustomed to creating my own press releases, statements, and graphics to publicize updates about any ongoing crisis or about monthly meetings. I am very self-motivated and accustomed to coordinating events, finding meeting locations, setting up agendas, and even taking notes. As the chair, I would be well prepared to host and coordinate the monthly public meetings demanded by the role.

For my day job, I work from home and would be free to take/make calls with the 17th District Commander and staff at any time of the day. As an organizer and someone who regularly has to deal with different parties who have opposing interests, I am accustomed to keeping a level head and navigating tense situations while keeping the people around me calm as well.

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

As long as we live in an unequal society, the rich and powerful will have their police. So long as we have to navigate the police, I would take on the role of being a primary point of contact, pro-actively staying in contact with them as needed and relaying whatever information was necessary back to communities and community groups. The fewer interactions between the police and our communities, the less likely people are to suffer arrest or violence, which means I can focus on being the go-between.

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 would work with community groups in a neighborhood where a monthly meeting is planned to canvass and table in that area before the meeting in order to get as many residents to the meeting as possible. I would make the effort to keep our Spanish-speaking neighbors connected, and find translators for literature to other pertinent languages based on the neighborhood where the monthly meetings occur. To the extent it is possible, I would remain in contact with other District Councilors around the city to compare notes and identify any issues/trends emerging beyond individual districts.

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

[Empty text input box]

Resume and Candidate Questionnaire

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

21. Did you email your resume or biography? *

Yes

No

Ken – Biography

I became an organizer in 2006, inspired by the Immigrants Rights marches. I went on to be an anti-war organizer at Northeastern Illinois University from 2006-2008, successfully organizing to get the military to stop recruiting on campus. In 2009 I joined the Immigrant Youth Justice League to organize with undocumented youth who were fighting for a path to citizenship and The Dream Act. After taking some time off between 2010 and 2016, I connected with 33rd Ward Working Families. I became a canvasser to lift the ban on rent control in 2017 and then joined the campaign for Ald Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez in 2018. I have been a committed organizer in the 33rd Ward ever since, participating in numerous initiatives around the ward, often teamed up with the Autonomous Tenants Union, HANA Center, and the United Working Families. My hope is that all of this experience and these relationships can be leveraged to be an effective District 17 Council member.