

CITY OF CHICAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 017
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: X Regular ☐ Special ☐ Closed

MEETING DATE: 5/10/2025

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: McFetridge Sports Center, 3843 N California

MEETING START TIME: 1:15 p.m.

Attendance & Quorum

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

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Vacant	Present: <input type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominator: Elizabeth Rochford	Present: X Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement: Anthony Tamez	Present: X Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

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

Public Comment:

Community-Police Interaction: Homelessness & Encampment Responses

Adam Gianforte: March 5th AME Event at Park Allegations: Morning police presence (7-8 officers at 4:30 am)

created panic among homeless encampment residents during housing sign-up AME. Residents were told they would lose tents and be removed, despite understanding plan was for 1-2 affinity officers only.

Stated concern: Incident undermined efforts to connect residents with housing and contrary to 17th District's strategic plan supporting the homeless population.

CPD response (Lt. Price): Parking lot clearing directive from commander, but claimed no directive to threaten tent removal.

Admits communication breakdown and that only community officers should be present in future similar actions. Reiterated police should attend only if requested, and that priority is now hands-off unless called in emergencies.

Unresolved issues: Lack of direct accountability or clear answers as to who gave the orders for police presence and threatening language. Calls for commander accountability remain unanswered.

Amanda Peters: Clean-up Operations

Community asserts police have been unnecessarily present and occasionally aggressive at cleanups. Example given of an individual's tent being slashed and several officers present (incident under ongoing investigation, bodycam reviewed).

CPD acknowledged: Desire for less officer presence, but stated were called upon by Park District or in response to threats; some officers have basic crisis intervention training, but not to specialist standards.

Grace Patino: Ongoing Concerns & Action Items

Community demands greater transparency and accountability in police actions around encampments.

Requests to remove officer tied to extremist "Oath Keeper" activity from force/district.

Regular feedback for improved police-community relations, with emphasis on collaboration, transparency, and prioritizing non-criminalization of homelessness and mental health.

Approval of Minutes:

April: Approved unanimously

District Council Member Updates:

Councilor Rochford: Nominations - Gina Piemonte has joined as the new Commissioner. She has made an impact already and hopefully will continue that! We had a meeting this morning of the Nominations committee and are working to revise our procedures for the next nominations that will be likely starting in January to get new youth and a Northside commissioner. Please keep your eyes and ears open for good candidates 18-25 who we will need to step up soon.

ALSO – working with them to find locations for their Light the Night events. Henry school where they have been doing them will be getting a new playground this summer so will not be available. We have discussed it with Hibbard school already and have a meeting with Haugan elementary on 5/20.

Youth Circles – I'm working with the Kedzie Center to have some circles around safety like we did at the Healing Village. Roosevelt HS RJ faculty are setting up some up and we will see if we can find some other partners to have another.

RJCC – Good News on this front, there is movement for a new RJCC and we have a meeting with Cook Commissioner Morita, other elected officials and community partners on 5/16 at 1:30 which will be Hybrid. If anyone is interested in joining please let me know.

DSP – the working group on this is bringing the presentation to other districts and I will be presenting to the 25th District.

Please sign up for the Meeting 5/13 Workforce Allocation Study and Alternative Response at Albany Park Library at 5:30. There are 30 slots available and I think they are filling up so please RSVP if you are interested. Let me know if you need the link and I will forward it.

Area 5 Detectives meeting – working with DCs from 14th and 25th Districts to get this planned for June.

Priority Proposal #1: Building Trust Through Transparent Justice: A Proposal to Improve Crime Clearance Rates. – Hopefully we will be hearing from CPD at the May CCPSA meeting on their progress to goals in the 1st quarter.

Priority Proposal #5: Community Mediation Process for Low-Level Complaints with Input from District Councilors. – There was a meeting w/ COPA on this at the 25th District Council April meeting. Hopefully, they will be willing to work with the other districts in Area 5, but no plans for that at this time, unfortunately. I will be presenting at the BUILD annual Restorative Justice Conference with constituent and CPD member Hannah Flint to encourage RJ practitioners to get involved with this mediation program.

Priority Proposal #6: Transfer Investigation of Officers with Ties to Hate Groups to COPA. – waiting for feedback from Commissioner Minor on this and GAPA coalition will be discussing getting legal assistance for the Ordinance language at their next meeting.

Councilor Tamez: There are multiple Public safety-related issues happening right now that we are being asked to gather community feedback on.

- Teen Curfew-The Mayor and CPD made changes, but it is still problematic and should not be passed.
- SAO changing cases referred to the RJCC
- “ electronic monitoring
- “ Felony Bypass pilot program
- Workforce Allocation
- Community Mediation with CPD for low level offenses
- Budget changes to support MH and youth jobs

We could use help with all of these and have been asked to present on several of them at upcoming meetings. Do you think special meetings in our district makes sense, combining with other DCs to

present on them or doing surveys/email feedback? We will also take anyone who wants to help with any of these issues and you can talk to us after the meeting about this.

Upcoming meetings: COPA Admin Listening session - Kenwood Academy (5015 S Blackstone Avenue)

CCPSA meeting – 5/29 Southshore International College Prep 1955 E. 75th St, Chicago, IL 60649

Discussion:

CARE PROGRAM

Rationale & Overview

CARE is a mobile mental health crisis response program, currently deployed in select Chicago police districts.

Addresses mental health-related emergency calls that historically defaulted to police but do not always require sworn officer response.

Composed of a clinician specialized in crisis intervention and an EMT.

Aim: diverts suitable (non-violent, mental health-specific) 911 calls from police to specialized teams to improve outcomes and free police for other priorities.

b. Program Goals

Immediate de-escalation and care for physical and mental health emergencies.

Reduce unnecessary use of police resources for non-violent, mental-health-related incidents.

Facilitate long-term connections to mental health resources, provide crisis counseling, and offer follow-up services (at days 1, 7, and 30).

Lower rates of unnecessary hospital transports.

c. Current Operation & Limitations

Operates in districts: 1, 4, 6, 7 & 8 (shared), 12, and 19. There is also a citywide team, available only via internal dispatch (email).

Funded to operate Mon-Fri, 10 am to 4 pm; does not cover weekends or nights.

Analysis shows significant unmet need: approximately 3,000 missed mental health response calls in the 19th District alone over weekends.

Transitioned fully under Chicago Department of Public Health at end of 2023, with teams now consisting of a clinician and EMT (no police presence).

Data collection for impact is ongoing; monthly statistics not yet available publicly.

Part of the "Treatment Not Trauma" framework: aims for integrated, civilian, public health-led mental health responses (supported by broad coalition: Collaborative for Community Wellness).

Ongoing concern about the vulnerability of individuals in crisis to police violence and the trend of criminalizing mental health and homelessness.

CPD and the city are under federal consent decree due to prior patterns of civil rights violations. Less than 5% of decree implemented so far.

Consent decree also mandates language access; unclear if CARE teams currently have equivalent access.

f. Stakeholder Discussions and Next Steps

Advocacy needed: program funding at risk as federal ARP funds end in December 2025; expansion to citywide coverage dependent on Council and mayoral support.

Community input needed for both ongoing funding and shaping service model (e.g., inclusion of preventative interventions, minimizing involuntary psychiatric

hospitalizations).

3. Policy, Oversight & Advocacy

a. Data & Metrics

Ongoing data collection by 19th district and a volunteer data scientist: all 911 calls over five years being analyzed.

Metrics needed: number of CARE calls per district, outcomes, costs compared to police response, racial breakdowns, cost savings estimate.

Push to have public access to all data and outcomes, including police/city budget implications.

b. Legislation & City Council

Calls to expand CARE funding and operation; details given for

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: 6/11/25

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): McFetridge Sports Center

District Council ended the meeting at 7:34 p.m.