

CITY OF CHICAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 018
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: X Regular ☐ Special ☐ Closed

MEETING DATE: 4/22/2025

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: 1763 N North Park

MEETING START TIME: 6:05 PM

Attendance & Quorum

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

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Brad Kessler	Present: X Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominator: Bob Johnson	Present: X Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement: Karen Kane	Present: <input type="checkbox"/> Remote: X Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

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

Acknowledgement of 18th District Officer Malissa Torres passing on April 10th. Councilors expressed condolences and gratitude to officers and requested ideas for officer wellness. Shared about the CPD goal on the officer alert system to flag concerns on officer mental health. Councilors shared Officer Torres' work with CAPS and the community.

Approval of Minutes

Councilor Johnson motioned to approve the March minutes.
Councilors Kessler and Johnson voted to approve the minutes.

Public Comment

- Constituent 1: Requested a public access bleed kit
- Constituent 2: Constituent shared experience on CTA and requested more discreet call buttons along the train
- Constituent 3, Mitch: Relayed experiences in giving thanks to officers in a sometimes-unwelcoming climate to police officers
- Constituent 4, Isaiah: A frequent CTA rider who values CTA, has experienced anti-social behavior – selling contraband, smoking on the train, said it contributes to a sense of ‘anything goes’ on CTA. Concerned about the lack of attention to this.
- Constituent 5, Mel: Concerned about safety on CTA and would like to see a plan for how CTA is used as an egress

Discussion

Guest Speaker: Kevin Ryan, CTA Vice President of Security

- Investigative – supports CPD on following up on police reports and investigations
- Facilities – private security contracts, K9, and Monterrey Security
- CPD has a public transportation detail headquarters at 35th and Michigan
- CPD handles things at stations, and CTA handles things downtown
- Suggested that people use the chat function on the CTA website to report things
- Addressed the smoking issue – 1500 smoking tickets since 2025, anti-smoking missions happening now, transit team calls CPD if pushback is given. Lots of guns are also being taken from smokers
- Ability to ban people from CTA using administrative hearings – 6 to 12-month bans
- Zero Eyes technology (AI technology) that detects an exposed weapon. 6-7 arrests using this technology. Zero Eyes has a human component to it: a former military or former CPD officer reviews the footage to confirm the weapon. 30k cameras across CTA on buses and trains. 1500 are Zero Eyes technology.
- Strong partnership with/ O18 Commander and staff, Division, and Chicago red line stops are well covered by both CPD and CTA K9.
- Public access bleeding kit is not part of his role.
- Homelessness is an issue on the Blue Line, particularly. Homelessness is not a crime and can't be arrested way from that issue. Works with/ DCFS and Night Ministry, and Haymarket to run regular outreach missions to address homelessness and other issues. In consultation with/ other big cities to learn best practices and other strategies.
- It's against the law to move between the train cars because it's very dangerous, and people fall and die. The doors at the end of train cars should only be opened for emergencies.

Q&A from Audience

Q1: Does money get collected, or are public benefits reduced when people receive tickets?

A1: The Department of Finance handles money collection. IDs are needed when tickets are given for smoking or selling contraband, and those tickets and ID checks often lead to the removal of drugs and guns.

Q2: Experience with/ CPD on CTA has been positive. Experience with/ CTA private security has not been so great. Wondering if more money can be sent for more professional law enforcement

A2: K9s are overwhelmingly successful. On the Blue Line in the mornings and the Red Line in the post-rush hour evening hours

Q3: Homelessness is not a crime, though an unhoused person harassed a couple at a park, exposed himself when children were walking to school. What can be done?

A3: Call 911, call CDOT, call Alder. Say a strange man is getting into your stuff, tell it like it is, and don't sugar coat it so the dispatcher can appropriately put out the call. If there's obvious mental illness, you can sign them in at the hospital, but they will be out in a few days. Vicious cycle officers.

Q4: What happens after a person is banned from CTA?

A3: They are arrested for criminal trespassing if they are on a bus, train, or CTA platform. CDOT owns the bus shelters

Q5 23 00 – Question about who owns property under the el tracks. Willing to work with/ CTA.

A5: CTA usually owns the lots under the el tracks. Encampments need 7 7-day notice to clear out.

Q6: Where did you feel like you made improvements in the past 5 years? What lessons did you learn about safety in CTA?

A6: Came during Covid, unhoused and crooks were the only ones using the CTA during this time. Less than 20 criminal acts daily for the 1 million people who use CTA daily. Spent a lot on private security. Whittled down to private security that provides engagement, it can hold them accountable. Increased money that goes to CPD if they work (up from straight time to time and half), increased social security earnings when they work on a day off. Built a strategic decision room in the 1st District with/ CPD – has made a big difference with/ response time. Brought more tech like Zero Eyes and brought more law enforcement and became more entrenched with/ city partners

Q7: Lots of recidivists use DuSable Lake Shore Drive. What is the process for banning someone and flagging this?

A7: Use chatbot on CTA website – safety concerns do get routed to us. Recidivist offenders to the CTA code of conduct, especially sexual nature, fighting, and assaulting, are who we focus on banning through administrative hearings. People can show up for the hearing, though we usually have videos of everything. It is important to report crimes, so we are aware, and we do catch quite a few.

Q8: What types of systems and policies are in place, given the interim period from a ticket to when police arrive? From the time of reporting through when police arrive, is Monterrey able to hold them>

A8: If there is no compliance, then they are asked to leave the station; if they don't leave the station, CPD is called, and they respond quickly. No, Monterrey is not playing TJ Hooker. Use cameras instead to identify which station the person might be exiting at, and have police waiting at the next station or getting on the train at the next station.

Q9: 36:45

A9: They stay with/ victim. If there are no victims, they keep the suspect in sight.

Commander Neckerman

Shared bio: 024, 023, bike unit, West Side, lieutenant, and protest response, and civil unrest and protest response, enjoys 018 commander post very much, hopes to be made permanent.

General crime trends across the district

- Most recently he has been focused on holding things down since Officer Torres' passing
- Retail thefts, catalytic converter thefts are still prevalent
- Decrease in robberies (theft by force or threat of force). Thefts are being broken down by felony and misdemeanor thefts. Numbers are going down in robberies and burglaries thanks to collaboration with/ other bureaus and an additional helicopter.

District Council Member Updates

- COPA administrator search, looking at 10 candidates
- Gina Piemonte is the new Commissioner
- Update on GO1-11 training with/ Cmdr. Heckerman
- CPD Strategy for Organizational Excellence – give feedback by May 7th

Votes

N/A

Announcement of the Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 27, 2025

NEXT MEETING LOCATION: TBD

The District Council ended the meeting at 7:48 PM