

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Type:** ☒ Regular ☐ Special ☐ Closed

**Meeting Date:** June 24, 2025

**Meeting Location:** Lake Shore Park Fieldhouse, 808 N. Lake Shore Drive

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:04 PM

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**Attendance & Quorum**

A quorum is established when 2 out of 3 members are in attendance.

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

**Quorum Met:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Meeting Called to Order By:** Chair Brad Kessler

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**Opening Remarks & Acknowledgments**

- **Roll Call:** Brad Kessler, Bob Johnson, Karen Kane
- **Quorum:** Confirmed
- **Special Recognitions:**
  - **Captain Albert Perez:** Newly appointed; present and introduced later in the meeting.
  - **Sergeant Schenk:** Recognized for community engagement.
  - **Commander Chris Biefeldt:** Recently appointed; absent due to attending an officer's funeral.
  - **Former Interim Commander Mike Neckerman:** No longer in the role.
  - **Captain Dave Koenig:** Thanked in absentia for past collaboration.
  - **Park and Tech Staff:** Recognized for support.

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**Moment of Silence**

Led by Karen Kane (Community Engagement)

- **Officer Crystal Rivera:**  
Fatally shot on June 5, 2025; mother, age 36, with four years of service.  
Wake held on the day of the meeting; funeral scheduled for June 26.
  - **Officer Malissa Tores (18th District):**  
Recently passed from self-inflicted injury; honored by the council.
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## Approval of Previous Minutes

- **May 2025 Minutes:**  
Motion to approve passed without opposition.
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## Key Discussion Topics

### 1. Public Comment Highlights

- **Traffic & Parking Enforcement:**  
Ongoing illegal parking and traffic violations. Suggestions for stricter penalties and questions about handling minors involved.
  - **CARE Program (Mental Health Response):**  
Concerns about limited scope and hours; request for expansion.
  - **1200 N. Dearborn (Walgreens):**  
Ongoing safety concerns and a lack of progress on frequent disturbances.
  - **Illegal Airbnb's & Galleries:**  
Reports of unregulated properties on Cedar Street and the surrounding areas.
  - **Crime Trends:**  
Residents requested up-to-date data to verify if crime is decreasing post-pandemic.
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### 2. Nominating Committee Report – Robert Johnson

- Three Commissioners on CCPSA have terms expiring in 2026:
    - Two juvenile members' terms are expiring.
    - One other Commissioner from the North side has term expiring.
  - A long vetting and interview process is expected.
  - An eight-hour preparatory meeting has already been held.
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### 3. Retail Theft Prevention Initiatives

- **Law Enforcement Collaboration:**
    - Over 500 felony retail theft arrests in 2 years (with Macy's & Sheriff Dart).
    - \$5M+ in recovered goods through a multi-agency task force.
    - Year-over-year:
      - Felony theft down 31%
      - Related crimes down 28%
      - Misdemeanor theft down 1% YTD; 24% decrease in past week
  - **Local Coordination:**
    - June 26 meeting with CPD/detectives and retailers.
    - Store cooperation is essential for prosecution.
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### 4. Non-Permitted Protests

- High protest volume in the 18th & 1st Districts; permits are often bypassed.
  - Safety, economic impact, and predictability cited as concerns.
  - Advocacy underway for better permit enforcement by the city.
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### 5. Traffic Stop Policy Presentation – Commissioner Sandra Wortham (CCPSA)

- **Policy Context:**
    - CCPSA oversees CPD policy; traffic stops intersect with the consent decree.
    - Pretextual traffic stops are defined and debated.
  - **Proposed Changes from Commissioners to the CPD Draft Policy:**
    - Restrict stops for certain non moving issues (e.g., loud music, expired stickers under 1 year).
  - **Consent Searches:**
    - Proposed moves from "consent" to "reasonable suspicion ."
  - **Survey Results:**
    - 67% of 1,300 citywide respondents opposed restrictions, though results were not disclosed until a FOIA filed.
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  - **Final Decision Pending:**

Policy may fall under future consent decree oversight.
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### 6. Community Engagement & Survey Plans

- Commissioner Wortham encouraged broader public participation.

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## 7. Police Leadership Update – Captain Albert Perez

- **Experience:** 32 years in law enforcement; recent transfer to 18th District.
- **Concerns:**
  - Youth gatherings at North Avenue Beach; groups often from outside the district.
  - CPD plans to “shadow” groups to reduce residential disturbances.
- **Curfew Enforcement:**
  - 10 PM curfew for beaches; earlier curfews require City Council approval.
- **CARE Program:**
  - Shared with 19th District; limited hours (9 AM–5 PM). Expansion needed.

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## 8. Additional Community Concerns During Police Q&A

- **Walgreens/Division St.**  
Increased arrests, new policies, and better store cooperation are aiding prosecution.
- **Illegal Airbnbs:**  
Police are limited to immediate incident response; broader enforcement is civil.
- **Retail Theft & Drug Activity:**  
Shoplifting is often linked to the drug trade; businesses enabling illegal behavior may face license revocation.
- **Quality of Life:**  
Noise, gatherings, and petty crime rose; residents were encouraged to remain engaged.
- **Crime Stats:**  
Citywide crime was down significantly in 2025 despite reduced police staffing.

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## Future Meeting Information

- **Date:** July 22, 2025
- **Time:** 12:15 PM (Pilot Midday Session)
- **Location:** Near North Library (Division)
- **Format:** Hybrid (Zoom + In-person)

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## Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously.

**Meeting End Time:** 7:37 PM