

City of Chicago
DISTRICT COUNCIL # 2
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: Regular Special Closed

MEETING DATE: 11/14/2023

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: Church of the Good Shepherd 5700 S Prairie Ave, Chicago IL

MEETING START TIME: 6:43 pm

Attendance & Quorum

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

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Alexander Perez	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement: Julia Kline	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominating Committee: Ephraim Lee	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

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

Public Comment

Number of speakers who provided comments/suggestions: 2

Dr. Vince Davis

I think it would be advantageous for people to get involved with the current consent decree. It seems like they are trying to push it through. I think that the current system of investigatory traffic stops is a violation. Being in law enforcement for 27 years when they make a traffic stop, they may make a prolonged traffic stop in terms of trying to find probably cause or reasonable suspicion, which is a violation of ones rights. The issue is not just the police department.

Looks forward to participating in future monthly meetings.

Concerned Resident

There was a father who was being harassed by CPD during the Halloween trick or treating.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes are approved by the second regular meeting after they are taken.

Approved minutes are posted online within 10 days after approval.

1. Date of meeting minutes 30 Sept, 2023.
2. Summary of any corrections to the minutes: None.
3. DC Member that made the motion to approve: Julia Kline.
4. Summary of any debate: Councilor Kline was not able to read the minutes and chose to abstain in the vote.
5. Alexander Perez: Yea, Julia Kline: Abstain, Ephraim Lee: Yea.
6. Result of the vote: Approved

1. Date of meeting minutes 19 Oct. 2023.
2. Summary of any corrections to the minutes: None.
3. DC Member that made the motion to approve: Julia Kline.
4. Summary of any debate: Councilor Kline was not able to read the minutes and chose to abstain in the vote.
5. Alexander Perez: Yea, Julia Kline: Abstain, Ephraim Lee: Yea.
6. Result of the vote: Approved

District Council Member Updates

1. Chair (Alexander J Perez)

Quarterly meeting

The District Councils hosted their first quarterly meeting. As part of the ordinance, we are to have quarterly meetings to discuss trends, concerns, opportunities as well as set goals for the commission. I was a part of the planning team who organized our first event, which was no small feat, but overall it went very well. Thanks to the information that the community has provided us we were able to share the trends and concerns that you provided us with. Additionally, after our first quarterly meeting, myself and a few other DCs decided to create six working groups or subcommittees. Those working groups are: Outreach and education, policy, Restorative justice, Public Safety, Transparency and Accountability, Data.

I will be leading the Accountability and Transparency group. We have not set up a date to meet just yet, but the idea is to continue the conversations that we start at the quarterly meeting. I look forward to future updates on the work we do there.

Yearly meeting

We are gearing up for the commencement of our inaugural annual meeting. What sets the yearly gathering apart from our quarterly sessions is the deliberate integration of insights garnered from the quarterly meetings. Here, we distill the lessons learned and leverage that valuable information to chart our course for the upcoming year. This encompasses shaping policy suggestions, identifying emerging trends, and addressing a spectrum of other pertinent matters. The yearly meeting stands as a strategic moment where our collective wisdom transforms into actionable plans and forward-thinking initiatives. I am a part of that planning committee as well.

Mayor Meeting

The District Councils had our first meeting with Mayor Johnson and his team. We did ask questions of him and his deputy mayor Ganen Gatewood. Overall, mayor Johnson voiced support for the District councils and is committed to working to provide us with the necessary resources, tools and support to effectively carry out our jobs.

Update on Arbitration

We are still committed to standing against the change to arbitration for police officers accused of the most severe cases of misconduct. We are not sure exactly when a possible vote may happen, but aside from us, we do urge you to reach out to your respective alderman, even if they are not in favor of changing the arbitration system. This will ultimately be decided by them, so they should hear from us. We will work to keep you informed on this ongoing situation.

Racist messaging

Ourselves and councilors from a few other southern districts have been made aware of an investigation into a CPD detective who is being investigated for nearly 10 years worth of racist and homophobic memes and images. The detective is possibly operating in the 2nd and 3rd districts. Myself and several other district councilors from 3rd and 7th District made public comments at last night's CCPSA meeting highlighting these disturbing accusations. And the hope that if these allegations are sustained, the individual in question be immediately removed from the force and any other officers caught sharing racist graphics or materials of any sort. We will be following up with COPA to learn more about the situation.

Community Event

Lastly, I want to again give a shout out to the hosts from Jack and Jill for hosting an event for civics week. We hosted an event aimed at educating not only the kids but the parents as well. Overall, nearly 20 kids and about 15 parents left with a better understanding of the work we and CCPSA does. We were also able to collect information from the parents for input into what they would like to see in future members of the commission.

2. Community Engagement (Julia Kline)

I was not at the Oct. meeting because I was invited by former cook county clerk, David Orr as his guest to the Reform for Illinois annual banquet. I made the judgment call that it was better for me to be at that event, engaging in those conversation so I was unable to attend the meeting in Oct.

Then on Oct. 23 I submitted public written comment to the clerk of the court that is engaging in the independent monitoring of the consent decree and I'll say more about that when I get to my calendar update.

On Friday the 27th I attended a monthly lunch event. Which is a room filled with lawyers and politicians all in the name of good government and police reform. Attending these events helps me keep them informed on what we are doing and strengthens our relationship with those folks.

Thursday Nov 2, I attended the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce event. Also, on Nov. 2nd, I attended a film screening of the film beyond bars.

Friday Nov 10 I attended a retirement gala where I was able to connect with other people in elected office.

This week I am attending the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). Attended a few sessions yesterday and I am looking forward to attending the rest of the conference.

The FDP contract. We are getting ready to have a vote in city council about the FDP contract. I have been meeting with members of the lawyers comm. for civil rights as well as several other organizations in my role as community rep for the district council. Making sure that we as a council are plugged in as a council on these efforts. They are concerned that the current FDP contract has a clause that would allow police officers who are at risk of significant disciplinary action to bypass a public hearing for the police and instead go to private arbitration. And there's two schools of thought on this one mainly because on the one hand, bypassing the Police Board, which is a public forum, and instead going to private arbitration, where most of it will be closed from public view, is a very, very bad day. And as Craig Waterman has been saying all over town, it's going to set us back in our attempts at police reform and push accountability by 25 years.

Others have made the point that at this point, there's only a dozen cops that go for the Police Board by now anyways every year. So all of this effort to just work on 12 bad cops? That's an argument that other lawyers have made.

And I think that the point inherent within that is that perhaps it would be better to exert our effort and try to figure out how we get more cops up for significant disciplinary hearings in the first place, rather than deciding whether the very very few that ever managed to jump through all of the hoops and get themselves landed in that kind of a disciplinary situation in the first place, are going to go before private or public. So anyway, and as councilor Perez alluded to, the city council will be voting on that in December. And I did get a rather cryptic text from a city council member earlier today saying that this person thinks that with arbitration we're good. So this councilor and I, this is this city council member and I will be having a conversation with him to find out what that means. I don't know if they've been whipping the votes and they know that it's gonna get voted down. I don't know what's up with that but certainly be watching our newsletter.

I submitted written comments. And so that's publicly available for anybody who wants to see it. But I essentially made the argument that we need to employ a restorative justice model as it pertains to police themselves. And that fundamentally, the fact that we have not we are only 50 or 54%, out of compliance with the consent decree, it means that we're not even abiding by step one of restorative justice, which is containing the harm. The Chicago Police Department is continuing to inflict harm on the city of Chicago. And the proof of that is that we are only 6% in compliance with the consent decree whose purpose is to get the CPD to stop inflicting harm.

3. Nominating Committee (Ephraim Lee)

Councilor Lee discusses the application process and when it will formally open up and encourages people to apply to become a CCPSA commissioner and explains why the commission is so important. Seeks the best and brightest to help shape the future of policing.

Discussions

Summary of discussions:

Coffee Hip-Hop and Mental Health gave a presentation about their work and efforts to address mental health within the Black and Brown communities through the use of hip hop.

Councilor Kline suggests that CPD should give public updates on police misconduct.

Votes

Summary of votes taken: 2

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: 12/14/2023

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): Church of the Good Shepherd 5700 S Prairie Ave, Chicago IL

District Council ended the meeting at: 8:00 pm