

CCPSA 11th Police District Council – Positions, Plans, and Strategy

Initial Positions: The CCPSA 11th Police District Council understand the necessity of law enforcement in upholding an ordered and lawful society, but also understand that our society is imperfect in its formulation as well as in its operation. The American Dream, an idea widely understood to indicate a strong correlation between effort and outcome in the United States, rests on laws, political structures, governmental bodies, and sanctioned economies, but also requires the action of the individual as well as the collective action of various governmental bodies and organizations that write, interpret, and implement policy in direct interface with the public. Sometimes poor outcomes for individuals, as it relates to income, wealth, educational attainment, quality of life, and other markers of health, safety, and success are individual failures, but often these failures are structural and suggest a problem with policy in construction or in implementation. It is this context in which we find the operation of the 11th Police District, a district at the intersection of multiple historically underserved communities with populations that are historically Black and brown.

Structurally, the 11th District is one of the largest most active police districts in the City of Chicago. By geographical area, the district is mostly dominated by Garfield Park but also includes significant coverage of North Lawndale, and Humboldt Park, three neighborhoods whose median incomes are around \$29,000, \$30,000, and \$40,000 per year, respectively. These neighborhoods, which are the site of compounded disinvestment, are often the backdrop for public policy failures that then fall upon the lap of Chicago's first responders, including teachers and other emergency personnel like the 11th District Police. These officers are often the first and last line of defense in preventing negative policy outcomes and violent crime, however because of their overuse, we often find their mistakes magnified in number and severity. While this does not relieve them of their responsibility to uphold the law and to behave with the utmost integrity, we find that many of their failures can also be attributed to a mix of individual action and improperly constructed and implemented policy. We believe the 11th District Council, as part of the broader Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability structure, can serve as bridge between the community and the police, enhancing trust and better directing policy implementation in service of the public.

We believe this process begins with a statement of positions and intention that offer malleability according to the will of 11th district residents and other community stakeholders, including the Police:

- Law enforcement is necessary in the maintenance of a lawful and ordered society. We believe the police and other bodies empowered by the state should hold a monopoly on force but that force should also be wielded under close supervision by the community. We trust our uniformed officers to be measured and disciplined with the use of force and to use it only as a last resort. We expect the police to honor the consent decree and to follow the spirit and intention of the changes outlined by the law.
- We do not support the punitive spirit in which the phrase “Defund the Police,” is commonly used, however we do support the proper allocation of resources and the efficient use of the police budget for effective policing. We assert that our strategies must be informed by the best efforts of the police reform movement.
- We believe we must enhance coordination with the police and the police must work in tandem with law-abiding citizens for effective policing. “The police need to work with us”
- We suggest a focus on mental health in police response and request significant input from social workers and mental health professionals for most emergency interactions with the public. We would like this effort to be supported by institutions that address the mental health challenges of those within the district, especially as it concerns the unhoused and those with substance abuse issues.

- We understand the frustration of the youth in response to today’s social, political, economic, and environmental climate. We believe we should be working with violence prevention and other police organizations to maintain order. Police resources should be used in service of that work.
- We would like to limit the operation of illegal vice markets district wide, especially as it pertains to open air markets for drug use and prostitution as well as public drunkenness. We would also like greater resolution of “quality of life” and “public nuisance” issues.
- We would like to understand the distribution of resources within the district especially as it relates to emergency response time and general police visibility within the police district.
- We would like to understand the challenges associated with creating a more diverse district

The 11th Police District Council has prepared a menu of proposed strategy items for initial focus. This list is not exhaustive and can be updated or amended at any time through discussion and suggestion. In the short term (the next 3-6 months) we expect to pick one or two issues to focus on and discuss further strategy and implementation of those issues. As we make progress on a particular issue we will reassess and engage in further action as decided by 11th District residents.

Proposed Strategy Items for the 11th District:

1. Employment as a strategy to reduce violence. We collectively utilize whatever resources are available to bring high-quality, career-based, skilled and unskilled jobs to the district. We can engage in this through job fairs and training as well as broad advertisement of open positions. “Nothing stops a bullet better than a job” -Kamala Harris
2. Rebuilding the community, rebuilding trust with the police, and understanding police tools that are available to the community.
 - a. Strengthening and forming community block clubs for organized interaction with police, through the strategies outlined by the neighborhood policing initiative. This would involve considerable interaction with NPI’s District Coordination Officers (DCOs)
 - b. Engagement of the broader community through CAPS in smoke outs and rolls calls, court advocates, various CAPS offices. Getting a better understanding of the role of CAPS and the part they play in promoting public safety. Organizing on a broader scale through the District.
3. Understanding the limitations of police resources and assist in their equitable distribution both inside and outside of the 11th District
 - a. Develop an understanding of dispatch management of calls for service.
 - b. Develop an understanding of average police resources (person power, hierarchy) over the course of a given time frame (hours, days, weeks, etc.)
 - c. Understanding of police response to calls, communicating with police in an effective manner, encouraging more effective responses to calls for service using coordinated targeted policies already available.
 - d. Enhancing contact with CAPS and NPI’s DCOs for more visibility and responsiveness with regard to calls.
4. Direct Focus on limiting the operation of open-air vice markets in the 11th District.
 - a. Focus on policing and interactions with vice crime in the 11th district before and during arrests.
 - b. Focus on police duties and interactions after arrests.

- c. Understanding the role of judicial bodies in enforcement of vice and nuisance crime
 - i. Felony arrests and crime through the State Attorney's office.
 - ii. Fines and fees through the City of Chicago Prosecutor's office.
 - d. Develop new policy to enhance enforcement.
5. Community developed initiatives for current action. To be decided upon at the request of the community.