



CITY OF CHICAGO



COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR
PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2023

MEDIA CONTACT:

Nicole Garcia

Nicole.Garcia@cityofchicago.org

CHICAGOANS ELECT DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS, MARKING HISTORIC STEP IN POLICE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

CHICAGO - Today, Chicagoans across the city will exercise their right to vote and make history by electing three community members to serve on District Councils in each of Chicago's 22 police districts.

The District Councils are an integral part of the city's new police oversight and accountability framework, created by the Empowering Communities for Public Safety (ECPS) ordinance. These councils will play a vital role in building stronger connections between the police and their respective communities, addressing concerns about policing in each district, and developing community-based initiatives that promote safety and accountability.

"With the election of the new district councils in Chicago, we are one step closer to having a real community voice in how our communities are policed," said Community Commission President, Anthony Driver. "This is the culmination of a struggle that spans over 50 years. The candidates who are elected today are making history, not only in Chicago, but in our nation."

The newly elected District Council members represent a diverse group of community leaders who are committed to creating a safer, more just, and more equitable Chicago. "The District Council members represent a wide range of public safety and accountability perspectives and experiences," said Damon Smith, Deputy Director of District Councils. "This is what makes the District Councils so powerful. The people of Chicago want those varied perspectives to ensure that all of Chicago is represented. This is democracy at its best."

The District Council members will be inaugurated on May 2, 2023. Before the inauguration, elected District Council members will receive extensive training and support to ensure that they are equipped to effectively fulfill their roles and responsibilities.

The establishment of District Councils marks a significant step towards greater police oversight, accountability, and community involvement in public safety. "We look forward to the positive impact that these newly elected members will have on their communities and the progress that will be made towards a safer city for all its residents," said Deputy Director Smith.

###