

# Documenters

POWERED BY CITY BUREAU

---

## [remote or in person] Joint Committee: Health and Human Relations; Public Safety

Documenter name: Madeleine Davison

Agency: Chicago City Council

Date: June 27, 2024

[See more about this meeting at Documenters.org](#)

---

### Takeaways

- Hate crime reports are up across the city over previous years. Although the city passed legislation to improve data collection and reporting last year, city officials say more needs to be done to curb hate crimes against Black, Asian, Jewish, and LGBTQ Chicagoans.
- Alderman Brian Knudsen has proposed legislation to institute \$1,000 fines for “hate littering” on private property after dozens of baggies with antisemitic fliers and mysterious substances were planted on cars in Lincoln Park.
- Public commenters and alderpeople engaged in vigorous commentary about Israel’s war on Palestine, with Debra Silverstein arguing that pro-Palestinian protest is equivalent to antisemitism and many speakers arguing that this is a false equivalency and noting that Jewish activists have led many protests against Israel’s attacks on Gaza.

### Follow-Up Questions & Observations

- I noticed there seemed to be a divide between people like Ald. Silverstein who views protesting in favor of Palestinian rights as inherently antisemitic and believes that pro-Palestine protesters are contributing to the rise in antisemitism, and other people who reject this view. The second group believe that dissenting against the

Israeli government is part of advocating for the rights of marginalized people everywhere, including Jewish people in the U.S., and say that focusing on pro-Palestine protesters distracts from the real threat of white nationalism.

- There also seems to be a divide between those who lean on more carceral and punitive methods to dealing with hate incidents and those who lean on prevention efforts and improved access to resources for mental health. Some, like Ald. Raymond Lopez, appears to be using hate crimes as a reason to push legislation that would further criminalize protesters and marginalized people, such as his “mask ban” ordinance.
- I am still wondering about the answer to Ald. Fuentes’ questions about the data on hate incidents against people with multiple marginalized identities and people behind bars. The CCHR and CPD did not seem to have this data available, which raises questions about how we can better protect these populations from hateful attacks.

## Notes

**Background Notes:** This meeting was called to discuss the contents of the [Chicago Commission on Human Relations 2024 Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Report](#). The report is produced in collaboration with the Office of the Mayor, the Chicago Department of Police and the Civil Rights Unit, the 311 Office of Emergency Management Communications, the Chicago Department of Law, the Chicago Department of Public Health, and Intergovernmental Affairs. Nancy Andrade, a lawyer and former leader at the American Bar Association, is the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Health and Human Relations. The notetaker documented this meeting remotely. The meeting began broadcasting on Vimeo at 10:00 a.m. sharp, but members did not begin to speak until 10:13 a.m. The meeting had a full roster of speakers, and became contentious at times when one pro-Palestine speaker was heckled by a pro-Israel attendee.

- The meeting began with a councilperson [they appeared to be a man, but did not introduce themselves] announcing that there were donuts of a variety of colors and flavors available with the official city council logo in a conference room and that participants should honor Chicago’s diversity by eating one. The broadcast cut out again at 10:19 a.m.
- Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez spoke first, calling the roll at 10:24.
  - 13 members were present in person and some were present remotely.

- The public comment period began a few minutes later.
- **Speaker: John Wayne Fry of [33rd Ward Working Families](#) [10:26]**
  - [COVID cases are up again](#), we don't want MAGA Republicans to take our masks away [Fact check: according to [wastewater surveillance](#) by the City of Chicago, most — though not all — of the city's sewersheds have seen an increase in COVID-19 viral levels in the past three weeks].
  - Fry speaks to the controversy between antisemitism and anti-zionism.
  - Fry grew up in Indiana and faced anti-Jewish hate from the Klan.
  - Fry says anti-semitism means you hate Jews, while anti-zionists oppose genocide and have lots of Jewish friends.
  - Fry notes that in 1943, Adolf Hitler ordered the extermination of Jewish people in Poland's Warsaw Ghetto – now over 30,000 Palestinians are dead, which Fry said was three Warsaw Ghettos worth of people. [Fact check: the Warsaw Ghetto was home to [50,000 people](#) in 1943 when Nazi soldiers were ordered to deport them, according to the National WWII Museum. According to Al Jazeera, as of June 27, 2024, [over 38,000](#) Palestinians have been killed since October 7, 2023].
- **Jessica Jackson: [Community Organizer](#) [10:29]**
  - Jackson begins by saying that injustice against anyone is wrong.
  - Jackson reads a piece of literature titled "[Negroes for sale by public auction](#)," a 1848 auction advertisement from South Carolina [Fact Check: Found an image of this advertisement on Facebook]. The advertisement lists the following "sales" of human beings:
    - 25 field hands
    - 10 boys
    - 18 women, 8 with future insurance
    - 6 girls "comely, quiet, bud'n out"
    - 1 female "superior cook and excellent seamstress"
    - Horses, cows, hogs, bulls, and wagons also for sale
  - Jackson: "Black people stayed here to fight our oppressor ... We face our oppressor" in courts and through activism.
  - Jackson says they're trying to steal our property and we are fighting our legal battles: This is what courage looks like."
  - Jackson expresses skepticism about the process of further legislation to combat racism: "We are not gonna get no hate crime bill, are we?"
- **Zoe Marsh-Leigh, [Community Organizer](#) [10:31]**
  - Marsh-Leigh states that the City of Chicago unlawfully demolished her building, and names other individuals harmed by the demolition. [Fact check: I located a [lawsuit](#) that Marsh-Leigh filed against the City of Chicago,

Mayor Brandon Johnson, and other city leaders in 2023 alleging that her civil rights were violated, but was not able to access further details about the case. Marsh-Leigh has spoken frequently on social media about this situation, including [here on YouTube.](#)]

- Marsh-Leigh: “Why did the city of Chicago think that they owned a building ... that the deed has been in my family’s trust since 1972?”
- Marsh-Leigh says she met with [Chief Deputy Clerk Cedric Giles](#) and got all the certified deeds – including that of her mother. [Fact Check: An individual named Charlene M. Marsh also [sued the City of Chicago](#) and other people and parties including Delta Demolition, Inc. in 2023 alleging breach of civil rights relating to diversity and citizenship. While I cannot confirm for sure that Marsh is Marsh-Leigh’s mother, this may be the case that Marsh-Leigh was alluding to.]
- Marsh-Leigh: Chicago never owned that building.
- Marsh-Leigh says the demolition occurred because in 2017, former President Donald Trump enacted the Tax Cut and Jobs Act which created [opportunity zones](#).
  - This was supposed to help Black folks build up their communities.
- Marsh-Leigh said Chicago just took the building “because ... that’s what America has always done to Black people.”
- Marsh-Leigh said “They’ve done everything they can to make it seem like we can’t take care of our property” and called on alderpeople to investigate the demolition of her family home.
- **Javon Sims [Was not able to verify this speaker’s name] [10:34]**
  - Cites that there have already been [249 slayings in 2024 in Chicago](#)
    - Lists a number of young teenagers and other victims killed in recent months
  - We got a police force but still an [elderly bomb specialist](#) was killed after going into a gunfight (Sims thinks it’s impossible).
  - Sims asks how many Black Americans are in this 249+ people?
  - One person recently killed is this speaker’s friend.
  - Sims: “Public safety for Black Americans don’t exist in Chicago”
- [Josh Weiner, Chicago Jewish Alliance](#) [10:37]
  - Weiner claimed that Critical Theory (Critical Race Theory, or CRT) is proven to enable targeting of Jews, singling out Rossanna Rodriguez Sanchez for particular critique. [Fact check: CRT, which is an “academic and legal framework that denotes that systemic racism is part of American society,” according to the [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#), does not target or demean Jewish people, but rather seeks to highlight and critique ways that white

supremacy is embedded in U.S. legal frameworks and institutions].

- Weiner says Jewish people have the right to safety in their “indigenous homeland” of Israel, that Zionism is not in conflict with Palestinian rights and that Zionists make positive contributions to society.
- Weiner critiques CRT, saying that it targets “so-called beneficiaries of these power dynamics” and “bemoans success ... and rewards victimhood.” [Fact check: CRT does not argue that people should not be financially successful or assert that marginalized people are passive victims; instead it [advocates for policies](#) that can dismantle institutional inequities in law and society.]
- Weiner says Jewish people are “quite likely the most successful minority” in the U.S. based on their representation in positions of power.
- Weiner adds that white supremacists consider Jewish people subhuman yet leftists think Zionists are evil and can be dehumanized because they cause human oppression. He further claims anti-Zionists hate Jewish people. [Fact check: Several prominent anti-Zionist groups, such as [Jewish Voice for Peace](#), and [If Not Now](#), are led by Jewish people, and such groups [reject](#) the characterization of anti-Zionism as tantamount to antisemitism.]
- Weiner claims that 90% of Jews support Israel [Fact check: While a February 2024 [Pew Research Center poll](#) shows that 89% of Jewish adults in the U.S. view the Israeli people positively, only 54% had a favorable view of the Israeli government.]
- Weiner states that Ald. Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez’s [Facebook post](#) asking for anti-Zionist doctor recommendations is “hate speech” against Jewish people.
- **Martin Levine, [JCC Chicago](#) [10:40]**
  - Levine states that he is a Jewish Chicagoan who wants to see “this community free from the hatreds” that “threaten our safety.”
  - Levine says he believes some weaponize antisemitism by making the challenge of Israel out to be an attack on Jewish people instead of standing in solidarity with other oppressed people.
  - Levine says that some Jewish people may be afraid of those who disagree with Israel but that people need to keep the fight against antisemitism separate from criticism of the Israeli government.
  - Levine references a June 17, 2024 piece in [Jewish Currents](#) by Shane Burley and Jonah ben Avraham which examined a recent [report](#) on hate crimes released by the Anti-Defamation League.
    - He states that despite problems with the ADL’s data collection outlined by Burley and ben Avraham, the ADL report still shows that

organized white nationalism was responsible for more antisemitic incidents in 2023 than any other year. Levine says there is a clear connection between antisemitism and anti-LGBTQ incidents. [Fact check: This appears to be an accurate reading of the Jewish Currents article.]

- Levine quotes the [article](#), which states that legitimately antisemitic pro-Palestine incidents are “statistical noise” compared with the growing threat of white nationalism.

- **Daniel Hernandez, [Chicago Commission on Human Relations](#) [10:43]**
  - Hernandez introduces himself and makes a brief statement on the CCHR report.
  - Hernandez says the report is important to make the city better and more equitable.
- **Joseph Grant, [Jewish Council on Urban Affairs](#) [10:46]**
  - Grant introduces himself as a community organizer at JCUA and states his commitment to building an interfaith and multiracial coalition to make sure people have dignity, safety and resources.
  - Grant says antisemitism is linked to other forms of oppression and adds that he is troubled by antisemitic, islamophobic, and racist bigotry in Chicago.
  - Grant says these kinds of rhetoric and action are part of a broader political problem — the right wing is using racist, islamophobic, and antisemitic rhetoric to sow division and fear.
  - Grant says people who want multiracial democracy need to build strong mutual relationships to work towards freedom and safety for all, no exceptions and adds that JCUA looks forward to continuing this work.
- **Thomas McDaniels, Jr., [Chinese American Service League](#) [10:49]**
  - McDaniels is the Director of Government Affairs in CASL.
  - McDaniels notes that CASL works to connect survivors of hate crimes with legal and mental health support and works on prevention of anti-Asian hate crimes.
  - McDaniels references that CASL supported the recently-passed [Chi vs. Hate Ordinance](#).
  - McDaniels says hate crimes are vastly underreported especially among first generation immigrants and AAPI people due to language barriers, distrust, lack of education on rights, and lack of accessible reporting measures. [Fact check: [research suggests](#) that indeed, Asian Americans are less likely than others to report hate crime victimization. [Anecdotal reports](#) back up McDaniels’ claim that this is partly due to linguistic, educational, and

institutional barriers.]

- McDaniels cites the 2024 [Asian American Foundation Status Index](#), which states that nearly 1 in 3 Asian Americans have been called a racial or ethnic slur in the past 12 months and that three in 10 Asian Americans have been verbally harassed in the past 12 months because of their race, ethnicity, or religion.
- McDaniels makes a couple of recommendations, stating that there is a need to change culture around underreporting, that better tracking of criminal and non-criminal incidents is needed, and that Asian Americans need better language services for 311 intake procedures.
- **Dr. Lionel Kimble, Jr. – Vice President & Executive Director of the Research & Policy Center at the [Chicago Urban League](#) [10:52]**
  - Kimble begins with some history of the CUL, saying it was [established in 1916](#) to help Black people moving north to Chicago during the Great Migration. Today, he said, it provides workforce development, home buying assistance, economic support, and education for Black communities in Chicago.
  - Kimble adds that hate crimes continue to plague Black people in Chicago and that racial hate and violence has been used to keep Black people in bondage since 1619 through the Jim Crow era and into the present.
  - Kimble says hate disproportionately affects Black people, saying that anti-Black hate crimes constituted 30% of all hate crimes in 2022, according to the FBI. [Fact check: this is close to spot-on; [in 2022](#), 3,421 of 11,634 reported hate crimes, or 29.4%, were anti-Black].
  - Kimble says 25% of all hate crimes in Chicago are against Black people – and that Black people make up 38% of victims of racist hate crimes [Fact check: These numbers are roughly accurate, according to the most recent Chicago Police Department hate crime report from 2023. In total, 90 of the 391 victims of hate crimes in 2023 were Black (23%). However, 139 victims (35.5%) did not report their race. Among crimes motivated by race, ethnicity or ancestry, anti-Black hate crimes made up 76 out of 173 total incidents in 2023 (43.9%).]
- **Jesse Connor [Was not able to verify this individual's name spelling] [10:56]**
  - Connor says right-wing groups from the suburbs want to smear Rossanna Rodriguez Sanchez because they support genocide in Gaza.
  - [Rodriguez Sanchez asks for quiet as an audience member begins heckling Connor]
  - Connor says a right-wing organization [unnamed] supports genocide in Gaza so they have to conflate Israel with Judaism because they cannot

defend Israel's behavior on its own merits and because Jewish people are among those fighting back against Israel killing and maiming over 25,000 kids. [Fact check: At least 15,000 children have been killed, and another 4,000 are likely buried under rubble, according to [United Nations data](#). A humanitarian aid group called Save the Children estimates that 21,000 children are missing or separated from their families.]

- Connor defends Rodriguez Sanchez's support of Palestine. [Speakers in background seem to be arguing with Jessie]
- [RRS asks for silence again and says an audience member needs to be silent or they will be escorted out].
- Connor speaks out against Ald. Ray Lopez's attempts to ban masking [Fact check: Lopez recently introduced an [ordinance](#) that would increase penalties for people wearing masks while committing a crime].
- [RRS asks Connor to direct their comments at herself as Connor and an audience member continue a back-and-forth exchange].
- **Joy Bunton, [People's Response Network](#) [11:00]**
  - Bunton says her organization, the People's Response Network, is concerned about the city's extreme heat policy.
  - Bunton says a 2023 NOAA heat mapping project found a 22 degree differential in temperature between Black/Latino communities and white ones in Chicago. [Fact check: [This is accurate](#).]
  - She argues that all six of Chicago's cooling centers must be open 24/7 during hot weather.
  - Buses should be sent to neighborhoods at high risk of extreme heat, Bunton says.
  - On Juneteenth there was [only one cooling center open in the whole city](#) with a heat index of over 100+.
  - Bunton says heat inspectors and home visits are needed for high risk people and elders.
  - She proposes that Chicago take note of the NYC program [Cool Neighborhoods](#).
  - She notes that the [OSHA guidelines](#) warn of dangers above the 80 degree heat index threshold.
  - Burton states that [people of color are more likely to die](#) of heat exposure than white people.
- **[Creola Hampton, BLACHE](#) [11:03]**
  - Hampton notes that June 27 is [HIV testing day](#)
  - IDPH/CDPH had a testing day event yesterday about getting to zero by 2030 — Hampton thinks this is unrealistic due to racial disparities.



- Black people make up only 14% of Illinois but 48% of new HIV diagnoses and 52% of existing cases, she says; Black people are 29% of Chicago but 48% of Chicago's new HIV cases and 52% of existing cases [Fact check: These numbers are pretty accurate. In 2023, Black people did make up [about half of cases](#) diagnosed since 2016 in Illinois, and in 2021, Black people made up [47.5% of existing cases](#) in Chicago].
- Unchanged for almost the past 25 years
- 98% of funding allocated to white-led orgs [Fact check: while I could not find the specific number that Hampton was citing, Illinois [does allocate](#) the vast majority of its HIV funding to white-led organizations.]
- Hampton states that there is a 18x higher prevalence of HIV among Black compared to white women and a 4.4x higher risk of HIV diagnosis among Latina versus white women. [Fact check: I was not able to locate a source for this specific statistic, but it is clear that [Black women have a much higher risk of contracting HIV](#) than white women.]
- **[Ken Barrios, 33rd Ward resident](#) [11:06]**
  - Barrios spoke out against Ald. Lopez's mask ordinance, saying cops can approach anyone for any reason and claim they are committing a crime (especially if they are participating in a Gaza Solidarity Protest).
  - Barrios said many politicians confuse anti-Zionism with antisemitism but that the Jewish community is old and diverse, and not linked to specific political ideology.
  - He says Zionism [emerged in the late 1800s](#) and is a [colonial ideology](#) that he believes is based on pushing out Palestinians rather than on creating a multiethnic democracy.
  - He thanks Rodriguez Sanchez for standing up for all human rights and notes that many pro-Palestine protests are led by anti-Zionist Jewish groups like JVP.
  - He says that right wing actors are actually promoting real and dangerous antisemitism.
  - Barrios says that the police are one of the largest hate groups in Chicago.
    - He cites that many CPD officers are members of the white supremacist group [Proud Boys](#).
    - Barrios advocates for the [Referendum for Community Power over Policing](#).
- **[Billy Rigby](#) [Was unable to confirm this person's name/spelling] [11:09]**
  - Rigby notes that thousands of Palestinian children were killed by Israel and praises RRS for speaking out against genocide.
  - He says hate crimes should be unacceptable in Chicago.

- He says bad-faith actors (specifically Aids. Ray Lopez, Debra Silverstein, etc.) are accusing pro-Palestine protesters of antisemitism.
- Rigby says over 8,000 children have been killed in Gaza and [1.7 million](#) people have been displaced, and [2 million](#) are on the brink of starving. Opposing displacement, war crimes and oppression of Palestinians is not antisemitic, he says.
- Rigby: Criticizing Israel is not hateful against Jewish people - many Jewish people are some of the strongest critics of Israel's actions.
- Any hate crimes legislation that lumps in protest with hate crimes is concerning, Rigby says.
- **Public comment ends at 11:12 a.m.**
- Nancy Andrade ([Chair and Commissioner of CCHR](#)), Kenneth Gunn ([First Deputy Commissioner of CCHR](#)), and Daniel Serrano ([Intergroup Relations Director of CCHR](#)) introduce themselves.
- Karla Johnson ([Commander of the Office of Community Policing](#)), Norman White ([Hate Crimes Specialist in CCHR](#)), Debbie De Lopez ([Deputy Commissioner of Chicago Dept. of Streets and Sanitation](#)), Andre Mathis ([Director of 311 City Services](#)), introduce themselves.
- Nancy Andrade begins to speak at 11:13 a.m.
  - Thanks all the commission's partners for their help
  - Gives some history of CCHR — it stems from 1919 race riots.
  - Describes CCHR duties — helping victims get referrals, etc.
  - Begins reading from the executive summary of the report [11:15]
    - **Notes record-high increases of hate crimes in Chicago from [CPD dashboard](#):**
      - **2019: 98**
      - **2020: 80**
      - **2021: 109**
      - **2022: 205**
      - **2023: 303**
      - **2024: 129**
    - Distinguishes between hate crimes — criminal actions motivated by bias — and hate incidents — non-criminal actions motivated by bias that may become criminal.
    - Andrade: Global crises, political partisanship, Israel-Hamas war driving increase in both antisemitic and islamophobic hate crimes.
      - COVID-19 pandemic led to an increase in hate crimes against AAPI people.
      - Migrant arrivals have led to increased hate crimes against

Latinx victims.

- Hate crimes are typically underreported.
- 2023: [Amendment to hate crimes incident](#) includes new data collection methods, including data collection for non-criminal hate incidents.
  - Andrade: 114 hate incidents as of June 2024.
    - Only 17 were classified as bona fide.
  - Community-based hate crimes reporting program (CBOs) established to engage the community in reporting hate crimes.
  - CCHR's Partners in combating hate crimes: Chicago Urban League; Anti-Defamation League; the Howard Brown Health Center; Metropolitan Community Services; the Chinese American Service League; the Instituto del Progreso Latino; and North Side Community Resources
    - CBOs are meant to supplement, not replace 911 and 311 options.
  - CCHR has launched the *Think Before You Hate* flier campaign.
  - CCHR hosted a Unity Brunch and a Unity Summit in January 2023, July 2023, respectively.
- CCHR Report Recommendations:
  - Pass Ald. Timmy Knudsen's [hate littering ordinance](#).
  - Review staffing model in CPD Civil Rights Unit for mission optimization.
  - Connect 311 hate incident reporters to Mental Health System Expansion Initiative.
  - Implement educational programs for youth to address the problem of hate and bullying.
- Andrade: Quotes President Biden, Mayor Johnson, and MLK speaking against hate [11:24]
- **Ald. Brian Hopkins begins to speak, and introduces Ald. Debra Silverstein [11:26]**
- Silverstein speaks [11:26]
  - Thanks Andrade for her partnership, along with Serrano and White of CCHR.
  - Notes that the City Council passed the Chi vs. Hate Ordinance last year – the first update to Chicago's hate crimes laws in 30 years.
    - Victims can now report 24/7 in many languages via 311.
    - The ordinance defines hate incidents - non-criminal acts that may lead to further criminal acts.
      - Silverstein: Jewish school reported Nazi salute, then the

perpetrators threw rocks at students the next time. [Fact check: I was not able to find media coverage of this specific incident with the stone throwing, but [this story](#) from 2022 about a man yelling antisemitic slurs and doing a Nazi salute in front of a school bus in West Rogers Park might be what she's referring to.]

- Silverstein: Chicago has seen [50 anti-Jewish crimes](#) in the first half of 2024 (same as the entirety of 2023).
  - Silverstein says West Ridge (which lies in her ward) [has experienced more hate crimes than anywhere else in Chicago](#) and has already experienced more than all of 2023.
  - There has been [anti-semitic flyer](#)ing in Jewish blocks in her 50th Ward.
  - Residents have reported threatening and obscene phone calls to Jewish bakeries, and a bomb threat at a Jewish college — Jewish people need help.
  - Silverstein: Leadership needs to take a “clear and unequivocal stand” to protect the Jewish community.
  - Silverstein criticizes pro-Palestinian protesters, saying the city has seen “illegal encampments, inflammatory social media posts” and that it has ignored “burning flags,” etc.
  - She says Jewish therapists have been blacklisted and businesses boycotted in the name of anti-Zionism.
  - She claims that “anti-Israel” demonstrators surrounded a synagogue in LA. [Fact check: There was a pro-Palestine protest outside a synagogue in Los Angeles, however Silverstein failed to mention that the anti-Zionists were protesting a real estate event at the synagogue to sell luxury properties in the West Bank on settlements that are considered illegal under international law. She also failed to mention that [pro-Israel counter-protesters](#) allegedly yelled racial slurs at pro-Palestinian protesters and ripped hijabs from the heads of Muslim women, and threatened to dox pro-Palestinian supporters, according to a report in The Guardian. Pro-Israel counter-protestors also assaulted journalists, according to The Guardian.]
  - Silverstein says she is circulating a letter with the Jewish Federation of Chicago - calls on Chicago Public Schools to protect Jewish students. [I cannot locate a copy of this letter]
  - Silverstein: “Even if we are Zionists, we deserve to have our city protect us and keep us safe.”

- Calls on colleagues to add their names to the letter
- Silverstein: Chi vs. Hate legislation is just the first step. [11:33]
- Silverstein asks a question: How does CCHR differentiate between bona fide, undifferentiated, etc. when it comes to hate incidents?
  - Commander Karla Johnson: City investigates hate incidents similarly to hate crimes.
    - First determine hate crime vs. hate incident
    - CPD and Bureau of Detectives run parallel investigations.
  - Andrade says there have been 114 hate incidents, only 17 have been found to be bona fide, while the remaining number are unfounded or undetermined.
  - Another speaker [I believe this speaker is Daniel Serrano]: Unfounded means the facts alleged do not meet the definition of a hate incident (non-criminal act motivated by bias); undetermined means the reporter did not provide enough information to make a determination one way or the other.
  - Silverstein: Has the pilot program started?
    - Andrade: We need DOJ approval.
  - Silverstein: Graffiti reporting — when reporting to DSS, you can mark graffiti as hateful, profane, or place of worship but does that count as a hate incident? Or must it be reported directly as a hate crime?
    - Unknown speaker [Black woman with pearl necklace]: We can look into DSS linking graffiti reporting with DSS.
    - Unknown speaker [Possibly Debbie De Lopez]: We are working on that.
    - Daniel Serrano: all graffiti is per se a crime, so it being a hate incident elevates it to a hate crime; previously, graffiti was treated as a public nuisance, recent ordinance means graffiti must be photographed, uploaded, etc. and then CPD can clear it for removal by DSS.
  - Silverstein: How are we educating the public on this?
    - Andrade: We are using billboards; ads at bus stops, L stops, and trains; social media. [11:41]
  - Silverstein: Can we get more money for this message?
    - Andrade: If aldermen approve more money.
  - Silverstein: [\\$90 million for anti-hate campaign in CA](#) so we want the same here in Chicago.
    - Andrade: we are ready to receive any additional support the city will give us.

- Silverstein: End of questions [11:42]
- [Ald. Jessie Fuentes](#): How are we aggregating data based on multiple identities (e.g., Black trans women vs. others); Black trans women face more violence than other Black and other LGBTQ people — how do we account for multiple identities and intersectional identities?
  - Johnson: We do have information listed by different identity categories, and we are working to get more comprehensive information.
  - Fuentes: Dividing by race and sexuality doesn't paint a full picture of how people can be more vulnerable when they fall in multiple categories.
  - Kenneth Gunn: We can manually pull that info from case files.
- Fuentes: lots of funding goes to agencies to communities that are not as vulnerable; Black LGBTQ communities need that the most.
  - Norman: We have worked with the trans community with Center On Halsted. The challenge is that many young people are homeless or sex workers — part of their everyday life is violence. We need to educate them on how they have rights because for them it's just part of the job — differentiating whether they are experiencing violence based on trans identity or sex worker occupation. It takes time for them to trust us.
- Fuentes: Does the report include hate crimes reported by those incarcerated? [11:47]
  - Johnson: I am not aware of that information.
- Fuentes: I just visited the Justice Center and there are young people experiencing “dreadful hate crimes” by their peers and officers – I would like to see data inclusive of this. Does commission work with EEOC that report sexual harassment? Sexual harassment is often compounded by hate crimes with regard to race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation. Sexual harassment can be a tool of power.
  - Gunn: We do accept sexual harassment complaints and work with EEOC and other agencies.
- Fuentes: can we get a response on whether those data include incarcerated people and if not can we get that report?
- Alderman Knudsen: Flier (antisemitic) and pellet substance (likely rat poison) was [distributed to around 80 vehicles](#) in Ward 43 - created an atmosphere of fear in Lincoln Park.
  - Response was good from the commission.
  - Mostly done by organized white supremacist from groups out of state.
  - Similar hate flyering issues in Black, Muslim, and LGBTQ communities — this seems to be a growing trend.
  - These hate orgs like to stay “one hair within the law.”
  - They know what organization did the Lincoln Park hate flyers — technically,

this is legal.

- The Stop Hate Littering ordinance would [create fines up to \\$1000 for hate flyering](#) to deter this kind of incident.
- Knudsen asks: What led you to endorse the stop hate flyering ordinance in this report? [11:53]
  - Andrade: Hate has no home in Chicago, and people need to be respectful — we saw this hate leafleting in various wards including 48
    - Hate groups are specifically targeting Jewish families - very frightening.
    - Similar [legislation in San Diego against hateful leafleting](#).
- Knudsen: Full committee meeting July 12 on this ordinance
  - It is currently circulating for co-sponsorship.
  - Language is narrowly tailored, content-neutral.
- Alderwoman Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth [11:56]
  - Thanks the commission for prompt attention to the [flyering incident in 48th ward](#).
  - Economic impact in the 48th Ward — the chambers of commerce changed their budget because graffiti has been addressed really quickly and helpfully.
  - Manaa-Hoppenworth asks: There is lots of need in the 48th ward; when incidents happen we need to protect the classes that need to be protected and also acknowledge that people causing incidents have needs, too (mental health, housing) — can you expand on recommendations to connect individuals with mental health?
    - Andrade: When we see the 311 hate incident dashboard, we see reports that are basically nonsensical free-flowing thoughts — individuals reporting the incident need attention but not from 311 or 911. There is now an ad hoc program with CDPH to identify reporters and forward them to mental health services.
      - These folks do give contact information which is helpful so they can be reached out with mental health help or other assistance.
  - Manaa-Hoppenworth asks: Someone threw bricks through the window at Women & Children First (a queer-owned bookstore in Andersonville) because of the store's LGBTQ and Palestinian flag display — this is frustrating for small business owners. There's a need for safety but also for people to get help — how can this happen?
    - Andrade: This report opens the door for collaboration.
- Alderwoman Nicole Lee (11 ward): this work is really valuable [12:03]

- Lee: Hateful graffiti in Ward 11 was dealt with in speedy manner and documented
- Lee question: Numbers will go up because of more focus on reporting - how can we get the word out about these reporting channels? Can you provide the materials with us? Are we sufficiently staffed to handle the workload?
  - Andrade: We sent out the marketing material in January and can send out again. We sent requests for wards to send specific language if they wanted it.
  - We are a staff of 19, soon to be 20, people — we would like to be bigger.
  - Norman White is “the real superhero.”
  - Andrade requests additional money for staffing — CCHR recently hired a PR rep, which is a recently added position.
- Lee: You used to be 90 staffers at one point? I want to see the size of your team versus the numbers of hate incidents. We want to give you more staff — what would be a good number of new staff?
  - Andrade: We only have 1 victim hate crime advocate — we want 3 more people under Norman.
- Lee asks about staffing on CPD
  - Johnson: Gives number of staff: they are doing a fantastic job (CPD has a detective, sergeant and 3 officers on this team). [12:11]
- Silverstein: Do you need more detectives?
  - Johnson: parallel investigation between CPD and Bureau of Detectives.
- Lee thanks the CHRR again for their work.
- Hopkins tells alderpeople to advocate for their budget priorities now
- Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa [12:15] asks a question for Alderman Knudsen - praises the suggested ordinance against flyering.
  - There was an incident in [Logan Square 6 years ago](#) in which white supremacists put hateful flyers on light poles with blades hidden behind the flyers to hurt people who would tear down the hateful posters.
  - Can we incorporate some language around this kind of violence? Flyering is already illegal.
  - Knudsen: This is another example of the terrible innovation that hate groups do.
    - His ordinance applies to private or personal property — not public property. Maybe an amendment could address things in the public way, but it would need to be constitutional with free speech rights.
- Rodriguez Sanchez: We have been losing funding for structures of care in our



government — I am grateful for the report and possibility for rebuilding the commission's infrastructure but also want to focus on prevention — educational programming for youth is important. Can you talk about efforts to educate the adult population? Many hate incidents and crime comes from global conflict and conspiracy theories — what is the commission doing to prevent but what are other things we can do to prevent?

- Andrade [12:20]: We speak to community orgs, Parent University, and we are doing outreach to orgs/communities — educate them on what is a hate crime and basics on prejudice, bigotry, and bullying.
- Andrade: We also work with new arrivals and senior citizen homes to address bullying and bigotry.
  - CCHR hired a project coordinator to start next month to focus on prevention and education — making communities aware of the services. CCHR is hoping the visibility factor will go up 4x.
- Rodriguez Sanchez: We also need to do training/capacitation in our communities so we can fill in gaps in stretched-out CCHR; we want communities to know facts and be aware of impact. Want to train community members so they can assist CCHR — I would be happy to help with this.
  - Andrade: New York Public Schools curriculum addresses bullying and bigotry.
  - Daniel Serrano: A huge percentage of bullying among youth is in school — this is an opportunity to think intentionally about how to address that.
    - NYC has a curriculum to address hate crimes, bias incidents — students learn what they are and the impact of hate crimes.
    - This would be helpful in our schools — many people don't report because they don't know what one is, and don't know what to look out for.
    - Educating the youth is a good form of prevention.
- Ald. Hopkins: [12:24] I appreciate the distinction between hate crime and hate incident — an ongoing process of education is necessary for this ordinance to be successful. Can you explain page 7 of the executive summary — there is a category called non-criminal hate crimes?
  - Daniel: That's a question for CPD.
  - Johnson: That should have said “non-criminal hate incident” so that is a typo that should be corrected.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

---

**Note to reader:** Unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at [documenters@citybureau.org](mailto:documenters@citybureau.org) with "Correction Request" in the subject line. Learn more about Documenters on our [website](#).