



**Near North Unity Program (NNUP)  
Membership Meeting NOTES  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Monday, March 31, 2025**

**In Person Meeting  
Cornerstone Center, 1111 N Wells**

**Welcome & Introductions**

- Review Question and Answer Guidelines

**AGENDA**

- **Introductions**
  - Near North 365, Rev. Randall Blakey
  - 18th District Acting Commander, Michael Neckermann
  - Introduce members of Violence Interrupter's group to the audience.
  - Randall worked on getting funding and people who were able to work and transverse the community to minimize extreme violent occurrences (shootings).
    - These individuals are perceived to have "licence to operate" in the community. Known and respected members of our community.
  - Connected with Arni Duncan's group CRED. Peace Training and Violence Prevention.
- **18th District Acting Commander, Michael Neckermann**
  - Commander introduced himself and gave information about where he had worked in CPD in the past and where in Chicago he was raised and went to school.
    - Roger's Park Sargent
    - Lieutenant 10th District
    - Foot Lieutenant 1 st District
    - Worked across the 1st and 18th Police Districts on Special Events and Protests. Knows the area well from doing this work.
  - 18th District Police Council Brad Kessler also introduced and acknowledged at meeting.
- **US Storage 1516 N Orleans**
  - Jon Gabbara, Property Manager
  - The manager presented information about services.
    - Wine storage, Charity storage, and site Storagetreasures.com.
  - Discussion about business cleaning up sidewalks, using cameras to identify and report illegal activity on site.

- We talked about BACP, Business and Consumer Affairs. There are requirements of businesses to maintain their property within 20 feet of the address.
  - At the emergency door of business, there are at times people selling drugs.
    - The manager noted they looked at putting a planter in front of the emergency door to block individuals from being there but this blocks the fire exit.
- **City Farm**
  - Patrick Baranovskis, Chicago Patchwork Farmer
  - Alyssa Alcorido, Chicago Patchwork Farmer
  - Patchwork Farm Collective has three sites (Humboldt Park, Back of the Yards, and City Farm)
    - Ken Dunn who used to manage the City Farm site died and Patchwork farm is now the Steward of this land.
      - There was a discussion about the history of the CHA City Farm land and how this site's location has moved over time and may move again.
      - Patchwork has been working at City Farm for three years.
      - There is no Farm stand currently at this site.
      - The Educational programming that is occurring at City farm is happening with Trails preK. Trails PreK Parents and the staff from school do clean-ups and partner to do activities with the children.
        - Need Volunteers for the City Farm Site.
        - Have a What's App group.
      - Discussion about picking up trash inside the farm and on the outside perimeter.
      - There are community beds to plant in.
    - Discussed how the Cabrini Now process may affect use of this land moving forward.
    - Come to City Farm Thursday April 3, 6 pm, meeting.
- **LAC Family Works Introduction**
  - LaDonna Taylor, Assistant Program Director
  - Family Works replaces YMCA in the rowhouses as a resources and employment service provider.
  - 904 W Cambridge
  - Only supposed to service residents in traditional CHS units. Not all mixed income housing but they will listen and direct if asked by a resident outside rowhomes.
    - Former residents Stan Jasper and Marla Davis.
  - Family Works connected to the Near West side as well. Cindy Blumenthal contact.

- **April 10 - Seward Park PAC meeting, 375 W Elm, 6 pm**
- **April 15 - Stanton Park PAC meeting, via zoom, 6 pm**
- **April 19 - Easter Egg Hunt, Sears Park, 10 - 12**
- **April 26 - Earth Day Cleanups, local parks**
- **April 28 - NNUP Monthly Meeting, 1111 N Wells, 6 pm**