



**Near North Unity Program (NNUP)
Membership Meeting NOTES
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Monday, June 29, 2026**

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

Welcome & Introductions

- **Review Question and Answer Guidelines**

AGENDA

- **Introduction**
 - **Nannette Dixon, New Pastor Holy Family Church**
 - **Introduced the new Pastor and she shared her hope to stay connected with the community. Welcome everyone to stop in at Holy Family.**
- **Chicago Park District**
 - **Christopher Kennedy, Director of Safety**
 - **Leo Panepinto, Security**
 - **The community discussed having problems at local parks often later in the evening. Loud music, non-licensed vendors selling food, drinking, drug sales. Who do you call?**
 - **Having active spaces helps make space safer.**
 - **Park Security is working to create a safety plan for all parks. Evaluating processes that are in place to secure fieldhouses.**
 - **Call Park security 312-747-2193 to report issues that are happening.**
 - **Security cars are available but limited.**
 - **Work with CPD. Call 911 to report any illegal activities first.**
- **Cook County States Attorney**
 - **Christine Washkevich, Director of Special Initiatives**
 - **Besides prosecuting crimes the States Attorney office also works to educate the community.**
 - **The States Attorney is the second largest budget in the county.**
 - **There's youth crime, CTA violence, Hate crime, Domestic Violence among other initiatives that the State's Attorney covers.**

- Discussed diversion programs for first time gun offenders. Help people get their FOID cards and their training so they can legally possess guns in Illinois.
 - Trying to get stronger penalties for switch devices that turn guns into machine guns.
- 27th Ward
 - James Bass, Community Engagement Liaison
 - Discussion of new 27th Ward website
 - There is a new website to report observations and complaints to the Alderman's office.
 - Helps manage services that need to happen in the community.
 - Building27Together.com is your one-stop hub for the 27th Ward.
- 864 N Orleans
 - Nick Ftikas, Attorney
 - Kevin Folkert, Owner Developer
 - Dx5 Five story extended stay hotel.
 - Showed updated pictures of the proposed building, units per floor, and the area the building will occupy.
 - Brick and Limestone exterior.
 - Floors 2-4 have 14 hotel rooms.
 - Floor 5 has larger suites.
 - Bottom floor retail.
 - The size of building and scale of the project has been reduced, that's why the project needs a down zoning change. The larger project was already approved by the community at a previous NNUP meeting.
 - Start construction Spring 2027.
 - 18 months to complete the project.
 - Will work with the Alderman's office and NNUP to make sure community members are able to apply for construction jobs.
 - Up to 60 construction jobs.
 - Voted on new project - Unanimous in favor of suggesting project more forward.
- July 9 - Seward Park PAC meeting, 375 W Elm, 6 pm
- July 10 - Stepping under the Stars, Seward Park, 375 W Elm, 6 pm - 9 pm
- July 11-12 - Old Town Bastille Day Celebrations, various locations
- July 17 - NNUP/27th Ward Jazz in the Park, Seward Park, 375 W Elm, 6 pm - 9 pm
- July 21 - Stanton Park PAC meeting, via zoom, 6 pm
- July 24 - Stepping Under the Stars, Seward Park, 375 W Elm, 6 pm - 9 pm

