



# Community Collaboration to Keep Parks Safe

## #PACC17





### Panel :

Dan Puente - Park District Area Manager  
Isidor “Bo” Ramos - Park District Region Security Manager  
Tamika Hoffman-Zoller - Elm Park Advisory Council  
Don Serio - Davis Square Park Supervisor  
Hamilton Park Advisory Council & RAGE  
Glen Brooks - CAPS



## Learning Objectives

- Learn best practices on how PAC's are collaborating to keep parks safe
- Learn programming examples from Park staff about ways they are collaborating to keep parks safe
- Provide a platform for PAC's to take information back to their parks to collaborate with community stakeholders

# How Does the Park District Address the Issue?

- Programming - Children First & Best Deal in Town
- Community Engagement - Extra Effort
- Park Maintenance & Capital Improvements - Built to Last
- Park Security Resources & Collaboration with Chicago Police Department



# Programming

## ➤ Youth & Teen Programming During Out-Of-School Hours

- Park Kids
  - After-School Program for 6-12yr olds at park locations citywide
- Athletics
  - Seasonal & Citywide Sports, Inner-City Leagues, Jr. Bears, Teen Summer Leagues, Windy City Hoops, CPS SCORES Program
- Camps
  - Day Camp, Spring Break & Winter Break Camps
- Teen Clubs
- Teen Leadership
- Sports 37 Teen Apprenticeship



# Programming

## ➤ Night Out in Park Events

- Presented by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the Night Out in the Parks series brings more than 2,000 events to neighborhood parks throughout the city, making community parks safe havens and hubs of cultural activity.

## ➤ Quote from Odgen Park Patron

- “Night Out builds communities because it allows people from all different backgrounds to come together and enjoy things that they may not have even know that they have in common - music, movies, nature. It allows people to relate to one another more and become closer to each other and make our communities stronger.”



# Community Engagement

- Partnering with PAC's, CAPS, Chicago Police, & Community Based Organizations
  - PAC's host events in Parks, fundraise, and community organize around issues relating to their Parks and communities
  - Many Parks citywide host regular CAPS meetings
  - Chicago Police partner with Parks on programming and special events in Police community engagement initiatives
  - Chicago Police have "park car" which is a "park beat car" that makes routine stops to Chicago Park District facilities
  - Community Based Organizations partner with PAC's and Parks to host recreational programs that target at-risk youth



# Park Maintenance & Capital Improvements

## ➤ CPD Work Orders (non-capital)

- Park Supervisor generates a work-order
- If vandalized, Park Supervisor reports damage to Chicago Police for police report

## ➤ 2016 Completed Capital Projects

- Mayor Emanuel's *Chicago Plays! playground* initiative
  - 327 playground's renovated citywide
- Ellis Park, Eleanor Boat House, Big Marsh Bike Park, Burnham Wildlife Corridor and many more capital improvement projects citywide



# Park Security & Collaboration with Chicago Police Department

- Isidor “Bo”Ramos - Chicago Park District Region Security Manager





Tamika Hoffman-Zoller -  
Elm Park Advisory Council



# Elm PAC: How We Took Back Our Park



- Contact your Alderman and park supervisor, via email, about problems at your park.
- Ask neighbors to call 911 **EVERYTIME** they witness drug use or sales, alcohol use, sleeping, vandalism, or fights in your park.
- Also call 911 when people are in the park after park hours.
  - The more calls that 911 receives about issues at your park ... the better. (They keep a record of calls/reports.)
- A PAC representative should request that “Special Attention” be given to your park by the Chicago Police Department. Share details of incidents such as times of incident and the location that the incidents occur within your park.

# How To Get Special Attention From The Police



## 1. Call CPD - Chicago Police Department

- Call 311, give your park's address, ask for your district number and your police district's telephone number. Call the district, explain the issues in the park and ask that special attention be given to your park. (Remember to get all the names of the people that you talked to at CPD.)
- We suggest that every request be sent via email as well.

## 2. Or Online Visit [home.chicagopolice.org](http://home.chicagopolice.org)

Click on Community  
Click on District

- The telephone number, District Commander's name, and their email address can be found there.



# How To Get Special Attention From The Police



3. Contact in the University of Chicago Police Department if your park is in their patrol area:

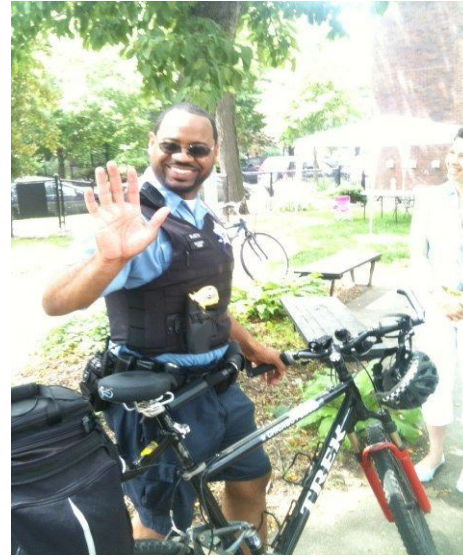
- UCPD - University of Chicago Police Department
- UCPD Patrol area is 37th Street to 64th Street, and Cottage Grove Avenue to Lake Shore Drive. [cops@uchicago.edu](mailto:cops@uchicago.edu) or call 773.702.8181

4. Attend CAPS meetings and voice your concerns about your park.

- Consider asking your District Commander for a Roll Call to take place in your park or on your park's block or corner.
- If your park does not receive a response from CPD, or if problems are still occurring in your park, then a PAC representative should send a follow-up **EMAIL** to your Alderman (and CC: the District Commander and your park Supervisor.)



# Activate Your Park



*(UCPD Officer Registering Bikes During Our Bicycle Safety Clinic at Elm Park and a CPD Bike Patrol Officer Spoke About Bike Safety.)*

1. Create a Facebook Page for your Park and a Twitter Account. Document  
(This is free.)

- <https://www.facebook.com/Elm-Park-Advisory-Council-156172511071512/>
- <https://twitter.com/elmparkchicago>

2. Host a Meet and Greet Your Local Police (Take photos and post)

# Activate Your Park



*(Neighbors and AKA Sorority Sisters Volunteering at Elm on “It’s Your Park Day” and “Earth Day.”)*

3. Organize Park Clean-ups Once a Month. Participate in City-Wide Clean-ups Like “Earth Day” and “It’s Your Park Day.” (Take Photos and Post.)

# Occupy Your Park



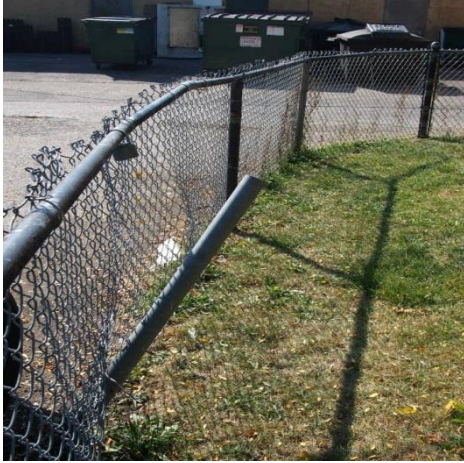
1. Host Potlucks or Picnics with Neighbors once a Month (Take Photos and Post.)
2. Invite your Alderman, your park Supervisor, and local Police to events. They may not be able to attend. However, the invitations makes them aware that your PAC and the community is taking back your park.

# Occupy Your Park



2. Start a Community Garden. Plant during the Spring, garden throughout the summer, plant bulbs in the fall, and host mulching day around the end of October or beginning of November. (Contact the Chicago Park District about forming a garden, getting free mulching supplies and tools and ask them about applying for small grants for plants and flowers.)

# Report All Damage



*(Photos of our damaged and rusted fence sent to our park supervisor and our Alderman.)*

1. Report all damage to your park to your park supervisor and sometimes you must also email photos to your Alderman
2. Take Photos of Vandalism, Broken Lights, Fallen Branches, Damaged Benches or Fences, then Email Them Park Supervisor Immediately. Make sure repairs are made as soon as possible.

# Celebrate



4. Celebrate all accomplishments and acknowledge all parties involved in helping improve your park: Police, Neighbors, Park Supervisors, Politicians etc.



Don Serio -  
Davis Square Park Supervisor



# Davis Square Park

## Introduction

- Donald Serio, Park Supervisor at Davis Square Park
  - Previously Supervised Lake Meadows/Dunbar Parks and Kelly Park
  - Previously oversaw the Dunbar PAC and Kelly PAC
    - Pictured Below: Paul Laurence Dunbar Statue unveiling in 2014

## History

- Davis Square was one of ten innovative parks which opened in 1904 to provide social services as well as breathing spaces to Chicago's congested districts.



# Programming

## Park Programming

- Davis Square offers various programs to Youth, Teens, Adults, and Seniors
  - Departments include: Boxing, Community Recreation, Special Recreation, and Wellness
  - In the Summer of 2016, Davis Square was ranked #19 overall in the Chicago Park District for enrollments
    - Over 725 Enrollments
- Pictured Below: Pro Boxer David Estrada with Coach Eddie Davis and some of the Davis Square Park Boxers



# Community Engagement

## Involvement

- Working with your Neighborhood Councils, Elected Officials and/or Other Community based Organizations is VITAL to any park's success
  - Attend Neighborhood Meetings
  - Network at Community/Neighborhood Based Events
  - Market Your Park Events
    - Night Out in the Parks, Movies in the Parks, In-House Park Events, Park Programs, Etc.
  - Picture Below: David Gonzalez (Port Ministries), Alderman Raymond Lopez, and Mayor Rahm Emmanuel attending the Faith in Action Event at Davis Square Park



# Working with Police and Park District Security

- Notify Your Police Districts and Park Security for All Neighborhood Events as soon as event is known or “locked-in”
  - Give reminder call At Least 48 Hours prior to Event
- Pictured Below: Commander Godsel of 9<sup>th</sup> District and Mayor Rahm Emmanuel with other Police Officers at the Faith in Action Event at Davis Square Park





# Hamilton Park Advisory Council & RAGE





## Glen Brooks - CAPS





# Additional Questions?

Drop a note in the question box  
on the way out!

# #PACC17

