

**The Young & Powerful Group**  
**be seen. be heard. be powerful.**



The Honorable Toni Preckwinkle  
President  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 N. Clark Street, Room 537  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear President Preckwinkle:

We are writing to articulate our support for the appointment of a Gun Violence Czar for Cook County.

Undoubtedly, gun violence is one of the most pressing issues confronting Cook County and the city of Chicago. Since January 1, 2015 more than 1,900 people have been shot and over 344 people killed from gun violence in Cook County. In the month of August alone, 336 people were shot and 44 people killed in the city of Chicago. This represents a 12 percent increase over last year. These numbers are nothing short of staggering and require a synchronized effort and response to combat gun violence.

We believe that the appointment of a Gun Violence Czar could bring the necessary attention and focus on this issue and move us toward a set of recommendations that the County and city could implement. Further, we believe the individual chosen would be able to ensure that our resources at the city and county are being adequately deployed to address gun violence. Furthermore if an area-wide strategy is created and aligned with all of the municipalities within the County of Cook, the individual appointed will be able to knock down jurisdictional boundaries and transcend the politics that too often get in the way of a coordinated effort to effectively tackle this critical public policy challenge.

Again, our organization supports the appointment of a Gun Violence Czar and thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Wendell D. Mosby, Chicago City Chair  
Marseil Jackson, Chicago City Co-Chair