



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Report of the Criminal Justice Committee**

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

10:30 AM

**Cook County Building, Board Room
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman García, Vice Chairman Moore, Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, Fritchey, Gainer, Goslin, Morrison, Murphy, Schneider, Silvestri, Sims, Steele and Tobolski (16)

Absent: Suffredin (1)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chairman García asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in Accordance with Cook County Code.

1. George Blakemore, Concerned Citizen
2. Mark Walsh, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, Campaign Director

LETTERS

Chairman García asked for the following letters to be entered into record:

1. Westside Black Elected Officials dated 9/1 to President Preckwinkle
2. Unity Temple, Oak Park, Rev Allen C. Taylor
3. Habilitative Systems, Donald Dew, President
4. Park Manor Christian Church, Rev. Dr. William E Crowder Jr.
5. New Hope Christian Church, Rev. James E Hunt
6. Faith Community of St. Sabina, Father Michael Pflieger
7. Stone Temple Baptist Church, Bishop Derrick Fitzpatrick
8. Young and Powerful Group, Wendell D Moseby and Marcel Jackson Co-Chairs
9. Victory Apostolic Church
10. Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence
11. Lurie Children's Hospital

**15-5212
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 07/29/2015

A motion was made by Commissioner Steele, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, that this Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman García, Vice Chairman Moore, Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, Fritchey, Gainer, Goslin, Morrison, Murphy, Schneider, Silvestri, Sims, Steele and Tobolski(16)

Absent: Suffredin(1)

15-4648

Sponsored by: RICHARD R. BOYKIN and JOHN A. FRITCHEY

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

APPOINTING A COOK COUNTY GUN VIOLENCE CZAR AND ESTABLISHING A COOK COUNTY GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the past seven months have seen dramatically escalating levels of gun violence in Cook County, especially in the County seat of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, in that time, more than 1,500 people in the City of Chicago have been victims of shootings; and

WHEREAS, more than 2,600 have been victims of shootings in the City of Chicago since January 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the past seven months have seen a major rise in shootings on Chicago area expressways, with the Illinois State Police reporting at least 20 expressway shootings since the start of the 2015, including the most recent such expressway shooting which took place on the Eisenhower Expressway on July 20, 2015 and resulted in the partial shutdown of the Eisenhower Expressway; and

WHEREAS, 19 Chicago area expressway shootings occurred in all of 2014; and

WHEREAS, 16 Chicago area expressway shootings occurred on Chicago area expressways in all of 2013; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, year to date, 259 people have died in the City of Chicago of as a result of gunshot wounds; and

WHEREAS, of those 259, roughly 10% were under the age of 18, and 56% were under 26; and

WHEREAS, of those who died in 2014 as a result of gunshot wounds, 14% were under the age of 18, and 59% were under 26; and

WHEREAS, of those who died in 2013 as a result of gunshot wounds, 12% were under the age of 18, and 54% were under 26; and

WHEREAS, despite being only 25% of the population of the City of Chicago, the Cook County Medical Examiner reports that 80% of those killed by gunshot wounds in 2015 have been African American. Specifically, in 2015, year to date, there have been 259 deaths from gunshot wounds, and 207 of those deaths were African American; and

WHEREAS, despite being only 25% of the population of the City of Chicago, the Cook County Medical Examiner reports that 80% of those killed by gunshot wounds in 2014 were African American. Specifically, in 2014, there were 455 deaths from gunshot wounds, and 363 of those deaths were African American; and

WHEREAS, despite being only 25% of the population of the City of Chicago, the Cook County Medical

Examiner reports that 80% of those killed by gunshot wounds in 2013 were African American. Specifically, in 2013, there were 425 deaths from gunshot wounds, and 345 of those deaths were African American; and

WHEREAS, the University of Chicago Crime Lab estimated that gun violence in the City of Chicago costs the taxpayers \$2.5 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, the economic burden of that \$2.5 billion cost of gun violence translates to \$2,500 per household; and

WHEREAS, a joint report by Ted Miller of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation and Mother Jones Magazine contains findings that gun violence across the country costs the United States \$229 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, that same joint report contains findings that gun violence in Illinois costs the state \$9.6 billion each year, or about \$750 per person; and

WHEREAS, Cook County government has an obligation to take action to protect its residents and taxpayers from gun violence and the resulting cost and trauma to the County; and

WHEREAS, Cook County government, like all units of government, has an obligation to its residents and taxpayers to do everything possible to preserve life, reduce instances of gun violence and minimize the harmful effects that follow acts of gun violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the President of Cook County and the Board of Commissioners hereby appoint a Cook County Gun Violence Czar and establish a Cook County Gun Violence Task Force; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Chapter 14 Community Development, Article VIII Gun Violence Czar and Gun Violence Task Force, Sec. 14-80 through Sec. 14-89 is hereby enacted as follows:

CHAPTER 14- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE VIII. GUN VIOLENCE CZAR AND GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Sec. 14-80. Short title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Gun Violence Czar and Gun Violence Task Force Act.

Sec. 14-81. Definitions.

The following words and terms shall have the meanings set forth in this section, except where otherwise specifically indicated:

Board of Commissioners or County Board means the Board of Commissioners for Cook County, Illinois.

Member means appointed members of the Gun Violence Task Force.

County means "Cook County, Illinois."

Cook County Code means the Code of Ordinances of Cook County, Illinois.

Czar means the Gun Violence Czar.

Ordinance means this ordinance appointing a Gun Violence Czar and establishing the Gun Violence Task Force.

President means the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners

Report means the Cook County Gun Violence Report.

State means State of Illinois.

Task Force means the Gun Violence Task Force.

Sec. 14-82. Purpose.

- (a) The purpose of this Ordinance is to appoint a Gun Violence Czar and create the Gun Violence Task Force, which will serve as an investigative and fact-finding body with the objective of recommending a set of policies to the President and County Board designed to reduce gun violence in Cook County over a period of six months.
- (b) The Task Force will hold public hearings chaired by the Gun Violence Czar to gather testimony and data about the economic, social, and cultural causes of gun violence in Cook County and the best methodology for reducing gun violence. The hearings shall take place over a period of time not to exceed six months and shall culminate in a written set of policy recommendations put forth under the authorship of the Gun Violence Czar and designed to reduce gun violence in Cook County effective January 1, 2016.
- (c) Such hearings shall be held in the Cook County Board Room on the 5th Floor of the Cook County building at 118 North Clark Street in Chicago, Illinois, and the Gun Violence Czar and Task Force shall have full access to resources necessary to conduct said hearings and make a record of said hearings.

Sec. 14-83. Compliance with law.

As an investigative and fact-finding body empowered by the President and County Board, the Gun Violence Czar and Task Force shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws, rules, regulations, and orders.

Sec. 14-84. Task Force Membership.

- (a) The Task Force shall consist of 9 members:
 - (1) One member designated as the Gun Violence Czar. The Czar shall be appointed by the President, subject to approval by the County Board. The Czar shall serve as the official liaison between the Task Force and local, state, and federal officials, and the Cook County Board of Commissioners. The Czar shall have the power to convene public meetings of the Task Force.
 - (2) One Cook County Commissioner serving as an Ex-Officio Member of the Commission with voting rights. The Ex-Officio Member selected from the Board of Commissioners shall be the same Commissioner tasked with chairing the Cook County Board of Commissioners' Committee on Human Relations.
 - (3) One additional member appointed by the President.

- (4) Two members appointed by the Cook County State's Attorney.
- (5) Two members appointed by the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.
- (6) Two members appointed by the Cook County Sheriff.

14-85. Term of Office.

Unless otherwise provided or revised, the members of the Gun Violence Task Force shall be appointed for a term of six months, subject to the approval of, and extension by the County Board.

14-86. Quorum Requirement, Absenteeism, Administration.

- (a) A quorum shall be necessary in order to conduct all hearings of the Task Force.

14-87. Expert Testimony.

- (a) The primary method of investigation by the Task Force shall be the solicitation, hearing, recording and transcription of expert testimony. Such expert testimony shall include but not be limited to the following categories of professionals:
 - (1) Law Enforcement
 - (2) Physicians and Nurse Practitioners
 - (3) Medical Examiners
 - (4) Government Officials
 - (5) Experts in Psychiatry and Psychology
 - (6) Social Scientists with expertise in any of the following areas:
 - a. Economics
 - b. Criminal Justice
 - c. Conflict Management and Resolution
 - (7) Faith and Community Leaders

14-88. Cook County Gun Violence Report.

Having concluded all hearings and investigatory functions, the Gun Violence Czar shall compile the testimony collected by the Task Force, and based on the information furnished through such testimony, shall author and tender a Cook County Gun Violence Report. The length of time between the first hearing and the completion of the Report shall not exceed six months. The Report will contain an overview of factors contributing to gun violence in Cook County, the effects of gun violence on victims and community members, and a set of policy recommendations designed to reduce gun violence and the harmful effects associated with gun violence. The Report shall be furnished to the President, the Board of Commissioners, and all countywide elected and appointed officials. Once the Report is furnished to the aforesaid officials, the Task Force shall

convene to review the totality of its proceedings to date and determine the steps necessary in order to implement the policy recommendations set forth in the Report.

Effective date: This ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon adoption.

This Ordinance was withdrawn

15-4728

Sponsored by: RICHARD R. BOYKIN

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CALLING UPON THE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT TO REPORT TO THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE SCORING CRITERIA FOR ITS VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANT AWARDS AND THE ROLE PLAYED BY COMMUNITY VIOLENCE LEVELS IN DETERMINING VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANT RECIPIENTS

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2015, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the award of \$800,000.00 in violence prevention grants under a process overseen by the Justice Advisory Council of Cook County; and,

WHEREAS, of the \$800,000.00 in violence prevention grant funds awarded on July 1, 2015, no such funds were awarded to organizations doing the work of violence prevention in the Chicago neighborhoods of Austin, East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, and North Lawndale; and,

WHEREAS, the Chicago neighborhood of Austin leads all 77 Chicago neighborhoods in homicides, has the 11th highest violent crime rate in Chicago, and has an unemployment rate of 21%, with 27% of its households living below the poverty level; and,

WHEREAS, the Chicago neighborhood of East Garfield Park has the 4th highest violent crime rate in Chicago, and has an unemployment rate of 16.4% with 39.7% of households living below the poverty level; and,

WHEREAS, the Chicago neighborhood of West Garfield has the 2nd highest violent crime rate in Chicago, and has an unemployment rate of 25.2%, with 40.3% of households living below the poverty level; and,

WHEREAS, the Chicago neighborhood of North Lawndale has the 3rd highest violent crime rate in Chicago and has an unemployment rate of 18.5%, with 38.6% of households living below the poverty level; and,

WHEREAS, Cook County, in its administration of the Justice Advisory Council Violence Prevention Grant Program has directly undertaken an effort to address the issue of neighborhood violence that has decimated poor communities of color in Chicago and Cook County; and,

WHEREAS, the fundamental objective of the Justice Advisory Council Violence Prevention Grant Program is to help prevent violence; and,

WHEREAS, the cornerstone of a program designed to help prevent violence is to drive resources to the areas where the highest levels of violence exist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that the Justice Advisory Council and the Department of Procurement report to the Cook County Board of Commissioners on the specific scoring criteria for its violence prevention grant awards; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Justice Advisory Council and the Department of Procurement

specifically address in the aforementioned report the role played by community violence levels in determining violence prevention grant recipients.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boykin, seconded by Commissioner Fritchey, that this Resolution be motion to accept. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman García, Vice Chairman Moore, Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, Fritchey, Gainer, Goslin, Morrison, Murphy, Schneider, Silvestri, Sims, Steele and Tobolski(16)

Absent: Suffredin(1)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Steele, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman


Secretary

*A video recording of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>