

# #1

COMPLETE

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Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Sarah Staudt
Organization (if any):	Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60613

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## Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

County Criminal Justice Committee Meeting 9/21/2022  
9a

## Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

22-4709

## Q4

What do you want to do?

PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION  
ONLY (You may add written comments below)

## Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Good Morning, my name is Sarah Staudt, and I am the Director of Policy at Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts. Chicago Appleseed is a non-profit that seeks equitable and fair solutions to systemic injustices in Illinois' courts and criminal legal system.

I am here today to urge the Cook County Board to act to sharply limit the use of "SCRAM" alcohol monitoring shackles in the Cook County Courts, and to require that all costs for such technology be borne by the county, not by individuals required to wear the devices. Reporting on this issue has shown that these bands are often overused by a small number of judges to place heavy burdens on individuals on both pretrial release and probation in their courtrooms. The fact that the SCRAM program has been operating without a contract for almost two years is deeply concerning.

The most egregious element of these bands is the cost to participants. Cook County has largely moved towards a system where people moving through the criminal courts are not required to "pay their way" to participate in programs and restrictions that the courts themselves require. This trend has been a major victory for equity and justice in Cook County. SCRAM is a major exception to this general trend. Costs of upwards of \$12 per day - over \$4,000 per year - are out of reach for the majority of people who are charged with crimes in the Cook County system. Neither of the other electronic monitoring programs in Cook County - the Cook County Sheriff's Program nor the office of the chief judge's program - requires participants to pay for monitoring. Any new contract should follow the lead of those two programs and also assess no fees to participants.

We know very little about the way these devices are assigned to individuals. We don't know what most people assigned SCRAM devices are charged with, how long they spend on the devices, how often they succeed or fail during monitoring, or how much they are charged for the devices. Any new contract should make clear, comprehensive reporting requirements for the companies that provide these devices, and that data needs to be made publicly available, so that we can properly assess who is being placed on this program, what its costs are, and if it is effective.

## Q6

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

**Requesting to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting**

## Q7

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Email Address

**[sarahstaudt@chicagoappleseed.org](mailto:sarahstaudt@chicagoappleseed.org)**

Phone Number

**301-807-5689**