

# #1

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, September 16, 2022 2:49:42 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, September 16, 2022 2:51:15 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:32  
**IP Address:** 67.173.169.143

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## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	William Sanders
Organization (if any):	Self
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60629

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## Q2

County Board Meeting 9/22/2022 10a

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.

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## 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

22-4770

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## Q4

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

What do you want to do?

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## 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)

The 911 alternative was created because of the ineffective and often inhumane policing of mentally disabled people during a mental health crisis. The Alternative Health Intervention Response Final Report clearly shows that the County does not have the infrastructure to support the state mandate to create a non-police alternative phone number to 911 based on the State Level CESSA Legislation. Establishing a properly supported 911 alternative is a critical step to begin providing families in Cook County a holistic, non-police solution to a mental health crisis. We are demanding that the Cook County Board hold a special emergency meeting to discuss the Alternative Health Intervention Response Final Report, and explore how future funds will be used to create the infrastructure needed to successfully implement this historic, lifesaving piece of legislation.

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## Q6

### Submitting written testimony only

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

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## Q7

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

Email Address

**[nate@soulinchicago.org](mailto:nate@soulinchicago.org)**

Phone Number

**7735547681**

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## #2

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:57:59 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:01:24 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:24  
**IP Address:** 73.22.194.80

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Page 1

### Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Stephanie Agnew
Organization (if any):	Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60655

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### Q2

County Board Meeting 9/22/2022 10a

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### 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

File #22-3772

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### Q4

REGISTER IN OPPOSITION to a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

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## 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)

Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts urges the Cook County Board of Commissioners not to approve the Cook County Sheriff's Office's (CCSO) proposed agenda item for an amendment to renew and increase its contract with Track Group, Inc. (File #22-3772).

In late 2020, along with CGL Companies, Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts contracted with the Cook County Justice Advisory Council (JAC) to provide technical assistance for their review of the pretrial electronic monitoring (EM) programs in Cook County. After two years of research and subsequent review, the Justice Advisory Council's Electronic Monitoring Review Final Report ("JAC Report") is also on the agenda for today's Board of Commissioners' meeting (File #22-5130). The JAC Report includes a variety of findings and recommendations that must be given thorough consideration by the Commissioners before any future electronic monitoring contracts (i.e., with Track Group, Inc.) are renewed or increased.

The JAC Report seeks to understand how the two pretrial electronic monitoring programs in Cook County – the Adult Probation Department's Home Confinement Unit (HCU), run by the Office of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and the Community Corrections Bureau of the Cook County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) – function, how they compare nationally to other jurisdictions, and provides eleven detailed recommendations for improvement of the system. Overall, the Justice Advisory Council's report concludes that "the use of electronic monitoring in Cook County has several problematic features that are inconsistent with research" and, to that end, makes eleven detailed recommendations on ways to improve the programs' functioning. The first recommendation made is for Cook County to undertake a strategic planning process to ensure its EM program(s) are consistent with national standards. Additional recommendations include but are not limited to:

(1) Cook County should dramatically shrink its pretrial electronic monitoring population. We are a national outlier in our heavy use of pretrial electronic monitoring. The report explains: "As of March 2021, Cook County has by far the largest number of persons monitored with this technology of any major urban jurisdiction in the United States," with New York City and Los Angeles County (much larger systems) having about 1,150 and 336 people on pretrial EM, respectively, compared to the over 5,000 people on house arrest in Cook County today. All evidence shows that EM does not meaningfully influence rearrest or appearance rates of people awaiting trial – most people (82%) on electronic monitoring appear at all court dates and less than 1% of people on pretrial EM are rearrested for allegations of violence – so a dramatic reduction of the size of program should have no influence on public safety.

(2) The Cook County Sheriff should no longer have control over pretrial electronic monitoring and the two programs should be consolidated under the Office of the Chief Judge or a statewide pretrial services office instead. The JAC Report explains that the bifurcation of the pretrial EM programs is unusual compared to pretrial supervision systems across the country and the costs to Cook County taxpayers appear to far outweigh the benefits. The current overlap of the two programs "impairs coordination of pretrial release programs and increases costs, without providing discernible benefits to the County," according to the report. While the JAC Report states that "neither program is perfect, the OCJ program provides a better model for a pretrial release monitoring program [than the Sheriff's program]."

(3) The report finds that the Sheriff's incarcerate first, ask questions later policy for people who have allegedly broken conditions of pretrial release violates people's rights and should therefore be replaced with a system that requires an explicit order by a judge. Although data shows that a significant portion of the alleged violation alerts for people on EM are false alarms, incarceration decisions are not currently made by a judge, but are instead left up to the Sheriff's staff. Judges should be in charge of making final decisions about whether or not a person is incarcerated to ensure that everyone's constitutional rights are protected.

Before the Cook County Board of Commissioners makes any decisions about the renewal and increase of the Sheriff's Office contract with Track Group, Inc., Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts strongly recommends that the Commissioners consider the recommendations of the Justice Advisory Council. Of utmost concern for today's meeting is that the JAC Report shows that electronic monitoring offers no real benefit to public safety or community wellbeing, and is, in fact, much more costly than necessary. Despite all

available evidence that shows there is no discernible public safety benefit to the large-scale electronic surveillance of people awaiting trial, the total amount spent on pretrial electronic monitoring for FY 2022 was \$35.5 million (\$11.1 million by the HCU and \$24.4 by the CCSO). Still, the Sheriff is asking that County taxpayers provide another \$4,144,344 to extend the contract with Track Group Inc. for another two years.

Cook County taxpayers already spend copious amounts of money on a program that harms more people that it helps. Research demonstrates that the “generalized use of electronic monitoring for released defendants, beyond those cases with a clear public safety interest, may then produce worse outcomes for defendants and the community.” The Board of Commissioners would be doing the community a disservice by approving the Sheriff’s proposed contract amendment with Track Group, Inc. before taking the steps recommended by the Justice Advisory Council.

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**Q6**

**Submitting written testimony only**

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

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**Q7**

**Respondent skipped this question**

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).

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