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## JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

69 West Washington, Suite 1410 • Chicago, Illinois 60602-1304 • (312) 603-1133

**To:** Honorable Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle  
Cook County Board of Commissioners

**From:** Cook County Justice Advisory Council

**Date:** Thursday, September 22, 2022

**Re:** JAC Comment on the Electronic Monitoring Report + Response to Chicago  
Appleseed Public Comment

The JAC wishes to respond to Chicago Appleseed's public comment to clarify certain matters regarding the electronic monitoring (EM) report that is being introduced today, September 22, 2022 and will be sent to the Finance Committee for a more thorough conversation in October.

This report was undertaken because, as the Sheriff correctly pointed out during the budget process, in the fall of 2019, Cook County has a large and complex EM system in need of overhaul. This report was authored by consultants, led by CGL Companies in partnership with Chicago Appleseed. The Justice Advisory Council commissioned this report to review our two EM systems and provide recommendations on how to move forward.

We are happy that these recommendations will be considered as part of a broader conversation, but we do not see that any portion of this report demands action against the current EM contract before the board today for renewal.

The report does recommend a consolidation of our EM systems, but a necessary part of that consolidation, and a chief recommendation of the report is that the County undertake an intensive planning process; any large systemic change cannot be undertaken responsibly overnight.

Until we have a comprehensive and thoughtful plan for the future, the Justice Advisory Council does not want to see Cook County under-resourced or underprepared, particularly with all the other changes to our pre-trial system that we are working in partnership with the Sheriff and other County Public Safety agencies on to implement.

For this reason, we do not agree with Chicago Appleseed that the commissioners should decline the Sheriff's item requesting funding for their electronic monitoring program today. A no vote on that would represent cutting off a major form of pre-trial release and not something that any criminal justice system partners, service providers or advocates have planned for. We hope that this EM report, which is being sent to the Finance Committee, will be the start of a long planning process where all the voices, the Sheriff's Office, the Chief Judge, the other public safety agencies, the public, and all the consultants that informed this report, can be heard.

Please vote yes on item #22-3772, TrackGroup contract and join us in continued conversations as we plan for the future of EM in cook county.

Thank you,  
Avik Das  
Executive Director, Cook County Justice Advisory Council