

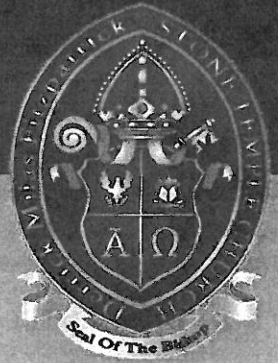
Stone Temple Baptist Church

"Building A Church By Building People Through Teaching and Training"

Bishop Derrick M. Fitzpatrick, Senior Pastor



September 4, 2015



The Hon. 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 1st, 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 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 coordinated effort and response to combat gun violence.

We believe that the appointment of a Gun Violence Czar will 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 will be able to ensure that our resources at the city and county are being adequately deployed to address gun violence. Additionally, 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. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

May God richly bless You,
Yours because of Calvary

Bishop Derrick M. Fitzpatrick

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