



UNITY  
TEMPLE  
UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION

875 Lake Street  
Oak Park, IL 60301  
708.848.6225  
708.848.0048 (fax)

[www.unitytemple.org](http://www.unitytemple.org)

Rev. Alan C. Taylor  
Senior Minister

Rev. Emily Gage  
Minister of Faith  
Development

The Hon. Toni Preckwinkle  
President  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 N. Clark Street, Room 537  
Chicago, IL 60602

September 8, 2015

Dear President Preckwinkle:

I am writing to express my support and the support of many of my parishioners who make up the Unity Temple Congregational Action Network (UTCAN) 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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, I and UTCAN supports the appointment of a Gun Violence Czar. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Rev. Alan C. Taylor  
Senior Minister  
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation



A Member Congregation of the  
Unitarian Universalist Association