

Chair
Emma Mitts
Alderman, 37th Ward

Secretary
Robert Steele
Cook County Commissioner,
2nd District

Kimberly Lightford
State Senator, 4th District

Patricia Van Pelt Watkins
State Senator, 5th District

Danny K. Davis
Congressman, 7th District

Michael Scott Jr.
Alderman, 24th Ward

Walter Burnett
Alderman, 27th Ward

Jason Ervin
Alderman, 28th Ward

Christopher Taliaferro
Alderman, 29th Ward

LaShawn K. Ford
State Representative, 8th District

Arthur Turner
State Representative, 9th District

Pamela Reaves-Harris
State Representative, 10th District

Camille Lilly
State Representative, 78th District

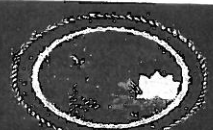
Barbara McGowan
Commissioner, MWRD

Karen Yarbrough
Cook County Recorder of Deeds

Bobbie Steele
Former Cook County Board
President

Richard Boykin
Cook County Commissioner,
1st District

Jessie White
Secretary of State



Westside Black Elected Officials

September 1, 20015

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

Dear President Preckwinkle:

Please accept this communique on behalf of the Westside Black Elected Officials (WSBEO). We are writing to express our support for the appointment of a Gun Violence Czar for Cook County.

As you are aware, gun violence is a serious public health threat to the City of Chicago and Cook County. The communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence are African American and Latino. 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.

This is one of the most pressing issues confronting the city of Chicago and the County. If we can reduce gun violence billions of dollars could be redirected toward education and economic development.

Again, the WSBEO support the appointment of a Gun Violence Czar. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Emma Mitts

Chairman
Westside Black Elected Officials