

Q1

Please provide some basic information

- Witness Name:Eric C. Washington
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- Organization (if any):Freedom Ministry of Christ Universal/Community Renewal Society
 - City/Town:Chicago
 - State:IL
 - ZIP:60643

Q2

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@cookcountyiil.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.

- County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting 4/23/2020 10a

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@cookcountyiil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

"COVID-19 in the Cook County Jail"

Q4

What do you want to do?

- PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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@cookcountyiil.gov

Dear Commissioners: In view of the continued spread of Coronavirus at the Cook County Jail, and Sheriff Dart's failure to provide complete and truthful information about the situation in the Jail, I am concerned that minimum standards are not being met. Three inmates have already died, others in the inmate population are staging hunger strikes due to the conditions in the Jail that the Sheriff claims do not exist. Quite clearly intervention by the County Board is urgently needed in light of the failure of Sheriff Dart to test the inmates for the virus, his failure to meet minimum standards for the safety of inmates and guards and the public in the current circumstances, doubts about whether he is making adequate treatment available for those who become seriously ill from the virus, and his ongoing failure to provide complete and truthful information on the conditions in the Jail. There are multiple sources of testimony available to the County Board, which it should hear and consider, about the continuing failure of the Sheriff and his staff to provide adequate cleaning supplies for the inmates and adequate care for those who become sick. On April 9, 2020 the U.S. Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois concluded that "intentional actions of the Sheriff enable the spread of coronavirus and significantly heighten detainees' risk of contracting the virus." Since then the Sheriff has defied the order of the Federal Court that he give a COVID-19 test to all inmates exposed to others who have tested positive for the virus. Most recently the Sheriff has been presenting misleading graphs to try to suggest that total cases are going down rather than up, as is almost certainly the case, which in any event he could not know given that as of April 16 he had only tested 10% of the inmates in the Jail.