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Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Deidra Jackson
City/Town: Oak Park
State: IL

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@cookcountyil.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 Special Meeting
7/16/2020 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@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

20-2867 Justice for Black Lives

Q4

What do you want to do?

DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING but REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

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@cookcountyil.gov

My name is Deidra Jackson and I'm offering testimony in support of the Justice for Black Lives resolution 20-2867, urging the County Board to vote yes and reallocate policing funds to crucial services for the community's welfare. My brother Derrick and I have been Oak Park residents all our lives. At 19, Derrick had a nervous break down, later diagnosed as schizoaffective disorder. In his mind, he was God. This incident led him to climb into a friend's window requesting that they have sex as they needed to produce the next Messiah. His friend and her parents, recognizing that he wasn't himself, sought help. The only service known to call was the Oak Park Police Department. With Derrick believing he was God and needing to fight Satan's army, he began battling with five police officers. Derrick was maced, arrested and taken to the Cook County jail. The family whose house he climbed in did not press charges but the Oak Park police inexplicably brought charges against him. Although he was eventually found 'not guilty' due to reason of insanity, his criminal justice struggles were just beginning for this young black male who had no previous record of wrong doing. He was mandated to register for 10 years as a sex offender. After serving his 10 years, we were informed that the Adam Walsh Child Safety and Protection Act (AWCSP) had passed which required Derrick be upgraded to a sexual predator and register for the rest of his life.

We are a close knit family and have stood by his side. He actively seeks psychiatric care through Loyola Medical Center, and keeps active with politics, friends and family. However he continues to be "Imprisoned" and severely handicapped by both his debilitating disease and the criminal justice system, in which he does not belong. The harsh reality of being a registered sex offender prevents him from taking advantage of already scarce mental health services. He will never be allowed to see his nephews and nieces play sports, attend their graduations, or otherwise celebrate with family and friends.

I ask that funds be redirected to support those with mental health challenges versus criminalizing them for their entire life. Police must be expected practice their profession within the extent of their training just as we expect of healthcare, educators, and mechanics. We do not go to an orthopedic surgeon for cardiac issues and nor should we go to the police for mental health needs. I am advocating for Derrick and others to appropriate a portion of the Cook County Sheriff's and Department of Corrections budget of \$944 million to mental health community services based data driven community needs.
