

# #2

**COMPLETE**

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## Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Briana Payton  
**Organization (if any):** Chicago Community Bond Fund  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60637

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## Q2 County Board Meeting 3/18/2021 10a

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.

## 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

Agenda item 21-2052

## Q4 REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

**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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Sharone Mitchell has partnered with the Chicago Community Bond Fund as a part of the Coalition to End Money Bond since the summer of 2016 and the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice since 2019. Over the past nearly five years of his work with the movement to end money bond, Sharone has proven to be a tireless advocate for justice for those most marginalized and vulnerable to mistreatment within the criminal legal system. As a former public defender who watched countless families suffer the devastating impacts of pretrial incarceration solely because they were not wealthy enough to pay a money bond, Sharone has fought for justice for these families as though they were his own. He has poured hours into not only courtroom advocacy in individual cases, but he has also dared to challenge the unjust system of money bond altogether, even when change seemed unattainable to some. Sharone's commitment to do what is right is greater than his fear of failure, and as a result he has helped drive a coalition that has made Illinois the first state in the country to abolish the racist and classist practice of money bail.

Sharone's greatest strength in his work, beside his impeccable expertise and fierce commitment to justice, is his relational approach to all that he does. He has been able to build relationships with not only impacted communities but also key stakeholders in the legislature, county and state government, court actors and beyond to find common ground and opportunities to collectively pursue positive change. His ability to form genuine connections with so many people across various political leanings and vantage points in our system has undoubtedly been a reason for the success of his advocacy at the Illinois Justice Project and the success of the Coalition to End Money Bond and IL Network for Pretrial Justice. This ability to collaborate so effectively will allow him to make transformative changes as the Cook County Public Defender that will lead to a fuller realization of the promise of equal justice for all. We could not be more confident in Sharone's expertise, leadership ability, humility, and commitment to collaboration to make Cook County a model for public defense in this country. The Chicago Community Bond Fund is proud to endorse Sharone Mitchell's nomination for Cook County Public Defender. We ask that the Cook County Board of Commissioners do right by your constituents and confirm this dedicated leader and advocate who will surely push our County in an amazing direction to the benefit of those who cannot afford, but absolutely deserve, the best defense and boldest advocacy possible in our criminal legal system. Thank you.

**Q6**

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

**Requesting to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting**

**Q7**

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Email Address

**briana@chicagobond.org**

Phone Number

**3132055990**