

Board of Commissioners of Cook County Minutes of the Human Relations Committee

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

12:00 PM

Cook County Building, Board Room
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Boykin, Vice Chairman Silvestri, Commissioners Arroyo, Sims and Suffredin (5)

Absent: Commissioners Fritchey and Steele (2)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chairman Boykin asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code, Sec. 2-107 (dd).

- 1. Flint Taylor, People's Law Office
- 2. Jonathan Terrasi
- 3. Spencer Ackerman
- 4. Eliza Solowiej
- 5. Kory Wright
- 6. Marc Freeman
- 7. Tracy Siska

16-0573

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 10/7/2015

A motion was made by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Suffredin, that this Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Boykin, Vice Chairman Silvestri, Commissioners Arroyo, Sims and Suffredin (5)

Absent: Commissioners Fritchey and Steele (2)

15-6255

Sponsored by: RICHARD R. BOYKIN, County Commissioner

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A HEARING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE CHICAGO POLICE

DEPARTMENT'S DETENTION FACILITY KNOWN AS HOMAN SQUARE

WHEREAS, Cook County is responsible for the administration of the Cook County Circuit Court, the Cook County Jail, and, as a unit of government, bears a share of responsibility for protecting the health, welfare and safety of the general public; and,

WHEREAS, throughout the past year questions have arisen in the community, and in the local, national, and international media, around the Chicago Police Department detention facility known as Homan Square; and,

WHEREAS, over the past year, extensive reporting by The Guardian newspaper has uncovered accounts of the alleged tactics and practices used by special units of the Chicago Police Department at Homan Square; and,

WHEREAS, the tactics and practices allegedly employed by special units of the Chicago Police Department at Homan Square include failing to enter arrestees into official police databases; physical abuse of detainees, resulting in serious injury and abuse to detainees; prolonged, uninterrupted shackling of detainees; denial of attorney access to detainees; and, holding detainees for up to 24 hours without access to a lawyer; and,

WHEREAS, the alleged tactics and practices at Homan Square, if true, pose serious concerns with respect to the human rights of Cook County residents who live within the vicinity of the facility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County President and Board of Commissioners does hereby request a meeting of the Human Relations Committee of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, to take place Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 10:30 AM at 118 North Clark Street, Rm. 569, Chicago, Illinois.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cook County President and the Board of Commissioners that the above referenced meeting of the Human Relations Committee of the Cook County Board of Commissioners focus exclusively on the alleged tactics and practices taking place at the Chicago Police Department facility known as Homan Square and its impact on the citizens of Cook County who reside in its vicinity.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Sims, that this Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Boykin, Vice Chairman Silvestri, Commissioners Arroyo, Sims and Suffredin (5)

Absent: Commissioners Fritchey and Steele (2)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Butler, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Secretary