



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 16-2571, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROPRIATING FUNDS DERIVED FROM THE SPECIAL USE GASOLINE AND FUEL TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A COOK COUNTY COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVE TO BE OVERSEEN BY THE SHERIFF OF COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, incidents of gun violence and homicide are rapidly escalating in Chicago and Cook County in 2016; and,

**WHEREAS**, since January of 2016, over 600 people have been shot in the City of Chicago, with over 120 people killed; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, 2,987 people were shot in the City of Chicago, with 488 people killed; and,

**WHEREAS**, if current trends continue, 2016 will see more people shot and killed in Chicago were shot and killed in 2015; and,

**WHEREAS**, the escalation of gun violence and gang warfare in certain Chicago neighborhoods has created an atmosphere of danger and posed constant and intolerable risk to the life, liberty and property of citizens of Cook County; and,

**WHEREAS** the President of the County Board and the Cook County Board of Commissioners wish to affirm the moral obligation of Cook County Government to provide for the health, welfare and safety of the residents of Cook County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the health, welfare, and safety of certain residents of Cook County are consistently and fundamentally threatened by the constant threat of neighborhood violence; and,

**WHEREAS** it is both possible and necessary to pinpoint and describe the geographic boundaries of the neighborhoods and the communities in Cook County where the level of gun violence is highest; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Sheriff's Office is responsible for a police force with extraordinary capability and commitment to the public good; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Sheriff has participated in public safety operations designed to support the Chicago Police Department by providing reinforcements and additional manpower with respect to the policing of high crime areas; and,

**WHEREAS**, in January of 2016 Sheriff Tom Dart and then-Interim Chicago Police Superintendent John Escalante partnered in a community initiative designed to more effectively and cooperatively combat gang violence; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Sheriff has unquestionably shown itself to be an able and productive partner to the Chicago Police Department in bolstering police efforts to achieve public safety; and,

**WHEREAS**, the spike in gun violence thus far in 2016 makes the increased participation of the Cook County Sheriff in such community policing efforts to be necessary and, in fact, indispensable;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the President of the Cook County Board and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, that a “Cook County Community Policing Initiative” to be overseen by the Cook County Sheriff is hereby established; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the President of the County Board and the Cook County Board of Commissioners that Cook County Community Policing Initiative shall be funded via proceeds derived from proceeds of the Special Use Gasoline and Fuel Tax; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the President of the County Board and the Cook County Board of Commissioners that the Cook County Community Policing Initiative shall, in its initial stages consist of the hiring of no less than 15 additional Sheriff’s Police Officers who shall be assigned the primary task of Community Policing in Cook County neighborhoods with high levels of violence; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the President of the County Board and the Cook County Board of Commissioners that funds appropriated from the proceeds of the Special Use Gasoline and Fuel Tax for the Cook County Community Policing Initiative shall total not less than \$2 million dollars; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the President of the County Board and the Cook County Board of Commissioners that the Cook County Community Policing Initiative shall commence no later than June 1, 2016 or upon passage and publication of this resolution, whichever date is later.