



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 17-3613, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **CALLING FOR HEARINGS FOCUSED ON BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago has a population of 2.7 million, of which 33 percent is black, and Cook County has a population of 5.2 million, of which 25 percent is black; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois in 2016 had an overall unemployment rate of 5.7 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, unemployment among white Illinoisans in 2016 was 5 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, the unemployment rate for black Illinoisans in 2016 was 12.7 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, unemployment in the majority black communities of West Garfield Park, Austin, and Englewood is above 20 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a direct correlation between increased unemployment and increased violence; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, whites are employed at a rate of 2 to 1 compared to their black counterparts, but in Illinois that rate is 3 to 1; and

**WHEREAS**, this is an urgent issue facing the City, County, and State; and

**WHEREAS**, the Human Relations Committee of the County Board will hold joint hearings with the Chicago City Council's Human Relations Committee regarding policy solutions to this important issue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the President of the Board of Commissioners that the Human Relations Committee will hold public hearings to explore policy solutions to the high black unemployment rate in Illinois.