



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### **CALLING UPON THE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT TO REPORT TO THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE SCORING CRITERIA FOR ITS VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANT AWARDS AND THE ROLE PLAYED BY COMMUNITY VIOLENCE LEVELS IN DETERMINING VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANT RECIPIENTS**

**WHEREAS**, on July 1, 2015, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the award of \$800,000.00 in violence prevention grants under a process overseen by the Justice Advisory Council of Cook County; and,

**WHEREAS**, of the \$800,000.00 in violence prevention grant funds awarded on July 1, 2015, no such funds were awarded to organizations doing the work of violence prevention in the Chicago neighborhoods of Austin, East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, and North Lawndale; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago neighborhood of Austin leads all 77 Chicago neighborhoods in homicides, has the 11<sup>th</sup> highest violent crime rate in Chicago, and has an unemployment rate of 21%, with 27% of its households living below the poverty level; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago neighborhood of East Garfield Park has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest violent crime rate in Chicago, and has an unemployment rate of 16.4% with 39.7% of households living below the poverty level; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago neighborhood of West Garfield has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest violent crime rate in Chicago, and has an unemployment rate of 25.2%, with 40.3% of households living below the poverty level; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago neighborhood of North Lawndale has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest violent crime rate in Chicago and has an unemployment rate of 18.5%, with 38.6% of households living below the poverty level; and,

**WHEREAS**, Cook County, in its administration of the Justice Advisory Council Violence Prevention Grant Program has directly undertaken an effort to address the issue of neighborhood violence that has decimated poor communities of color in Chicago and Cook County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the fundamental objective of the Justice Advisory Council Violence Prevention Grant Program is to help prevent violence; and,

**WHEREAS**, the cornerstone of a program designed to help prevent violence is to drive resources to the areas where the highest levels of violence exist;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that the Justice Advisory Council and the Department of Procurement report to the Cook County Board of Commissioners on the specific scoring criteria for its violence prevention grant awards; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Justice Advisory Council and the Department of Procurement specifically address in the aforementioned report the role played by community violence levels in determining violence prevention grant recipients.