



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 23-2739, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **REQUESTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS EQUIP FOR EQUALITY'S RECENT REPORT ON THE CONDITIONS INSIDE THE COOK COUNTY JUVENILE TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center ("JTDC") is the juvenile detention facility for Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, the children in the JTDC are some of the most vulnerable youth in Cook County, many having experienced significant trauma and violence as part of their daily existence; and

**WHEREAS**, the JTDC should provide a safe, secure environment with educational programming and mental health supports for youth awaiting adjudication of their cases; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past year, reports on the conditions of the JTDC have been released by the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice ("IDJJ"); the Blue Ribbon Committee ("BRC"); and Equip for Equality ("EFE"); and

**WHEREAS**, the IDJJ report noted concern with the JTDC's room-confinement practices, which do not comply with the state of Illinois's minimum standard that "room confinement may be used only as a temporary response to behavior that threatens the safety of youth and others"; and

**WHEREAS**, the BRC report concluded that the JTDC over-relies on room confinement; and

**WHEREAS**, the EFE report further outlined concerns in four primary categories: special education services, "behavioral modification" and discipline systems, restraint practices, and inadequate facility accessibility; and

**WHEREAS**, these reports also call for increased transparency and reporting mechanisms of incidents inside the JTDC; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to these reports, both the Office of the Chief Judge and the Office of the President convened the Implementation Committee and the Reimagining Juvenile Detention group respectively to address these concerns. In 2022, the Implementation Committee implemented the following improvements at the JTDC: limiting all room confinements to thirty minutes, moving back bedtimes by one hour, creating more programming during evening hours, and reporting of total resident population, including a breakdown of the population by age, gender, race, and whether the cases are in juvenile or criminal court; and,

**WHEREAS**, despite these changes, the reports raise concerns that warrant further discussion given the vulnerability of the JTDC's residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners request a convening of the Audit Committee to conduct a hearing regarding these reports, the progress made by the Office of the Chief Judge, JTDC staff, the Implementation Committee, and the Reimagining Juvenile Detention group to implement positive changes at the JTDC, and their goals for future improvements; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board requests that the hearing feature presentations of the EFE report by its authors. The Board also requests that the Chief Judge of the Cook County Circuit Court, the Implementation Committee,

JTDC staff, and subject-matter experts from the JTDC Advisory Board appear before the Committee.