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City Hall
121 N. LaSalle St.
Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
www.chicityclerk.com

Legislation Details (With Text)

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Title: Call for hearing(s) regarding crime classification and reporting practices of Chicago Police Department
Sponsors: Waguespack, Scott, Hairston, Leslie A., Arena, John, Munoz, Ricardo, Fioretti, Bob, Sawyer, Roderick T.
Indexes: Committee on Public Safety
Attachments: 1. R2014-288.pdf

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
5/20/2015	1	City Council	Failed to Pass	Fail
4/30/2014	1	City Council	Referred	

Resolution Calling for Hearing on CPD Crime Statistics

WHEREAS; The Office of the Inspector General of Chicago recently conducted an audit of the Chicago Police Department pertaining to rates and reporting of assault-related crimes that occurred in 2012, which specifically includes the crimes and attempted crimes of battery, assault, and reckless conduct; and

WHEREAS; The objectives of this audit were to determine if assault-related crimes are classified correctly under CPD guidelines, and if assault-related crime statistics are properly reported to the Illinois State Police, as per state statute, for inclusion in the FBI and State Police administered Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program; and

WHEREAS; For the purposes of accurately assessing the classification and reporting of assault-related crime statistics, the Office of the Inspector General used a sample of 383 incidents out the 83,480 total assault-related crime incidents reported in 2012; and

WHEREAS; After conducting the audit, a significant finding reported by the Office of the Inspector General is that CPD failed to properly adhere by Illinois UCR reporting rules for assault-related crimes by neglecting to count each victim in multiple victim crimes as a separate offense, resulting in a 20.8% error rate in incident reporting and a 24.2% underreporting of victim offenses. Additionally, all aggravated assaults and batteries were underreported by 5.7% and 3.2%, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the recent Chicago Magazine article entitled "The Truth About Chicago's Crime Rates" has raised further questions as to the integrity and accuracy of CPD crime classification and reporting; and

WHEREAS; Properly collecting and utilizing accurate crime data is a fundamental and integral aspect of CPD's critical public mission, and is necessary to effectively combat crime, and sustain public trust in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS; Using and providing inaccurate crime data cultivates a distorted view as to the actual state of crime and victimization in Chicago, potentially leading to a misdirection of resource allocations, a less than optimum response to felony crimes, and a weakening of public confidence; and

WHEREAS; Police Superintendent McCarthy acknowledges and agrees with the Inspector General's findings, but has yet to provide adequate details regarding processes for (1) rectifying the inaccuracy of past crime statistics, (2) properly ensuring that assault-related crimes will be accurately reported in the future, and (3) explaining why the Chicago Police Department failed to do so prior to the publication of the audit conducted by the office of the Inspector General; and

WHEREAS; the official Chicago Police Department response to the issues raised in the Chicago Magazine article are unavailable on the Chicago Police Department's website, yet were publicly disseminated through a Chicago Tribune blog post; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, in its role as a legislative and representative body "responsible for establishing and maintaining processes to ensure that City programs operate economically, efficiently, effectively, and with integrity," requires a detailed, public, thorough, and adequate response from Superintendent McCarthy in regards to CPD's crime data reporting; and

WHEREAS, this response should include details on CPD's "in-depth review of every single aggravated assault and aggravated battery that occurred during 2012, and 2013," as per the CPD's official response to the audit conducted by the office of the Inspector General; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the undersigned members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 30th Day of April, 2014 AD, urge the Committee on Public Safety to expeditiously convene public hearings to take testimony from Superintendent McCarthy of the Chicago Police Department and Inspector General Joe Ferguson of the Office of the Inspector General, as well as solicit comment from the general public concerning the crime classification and reporting practices of the Chicago Police Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Superintendent McCarthy, Inspector General Ferguson, and the Honorable James Balcer, Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety.

Alderman Toni Foulkes

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the findings of this hearing be documented and presented to this august body and the Honorable Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of the City, of Chicago, so that appropriate action on behalf of the citizens of Chicago may be undertaken, y /

