



# City of Chicago



R2017-204

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 3/29/2017

**Sponsor(s):** Dowell (3)  
Scott, Jr. (24)  
Harris (8)  
Taliaferro (29)  
Ervin (28)  
Maldonado (26)  
Mitts (37)  
Mitchell (7)  
Moore (17)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Call for hearing(s) on measures to increase awareness and identify solutions regarding African American male unemployment rates

**Committee(s) Assignment:** Committee on Workforce Development and Audit

**Call for hearing(s) on African American Male Unemployment in Chicago**

**WHEREAS**, The City Council of the City of Chicago is responsible for implementing policies that promote equality and improve the well-being of all of Chicago's residents; and

**WHEREAS**, There exists significant disparities in employment rates between African American males and other demographic groups in the City of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, The University of Illinois at Chicago's Great Cities Institute reported that 47%- nearly half - of 20- to 24-year-old black men in Chicago, and 44% in Illinois, were out of school and out of work in 2014, compared with 20% of Hispanic men and 10% of Caucasian men in the same age group; and

**WHEREAS**, This report indicates that the highest concentration of youth unemployment is in neighborhoods on the city's south and west sides, where residents are ninety percent African American; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security's 2016 Women and Minorities Report, Illinois' average annual unemployment rate was 15.11% for African American men, 6.9% for Hispanic men and 5.4% for Caucasian men; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois has the highest black unemployment rate in the country according to a the Economic Policy Institute; and

**WHEREAS**, African-American men in Illinois have reported the highest unemployment rates among all racial groups and genders (with the exception of 2 years) since the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics began tracking this data in 1981; and

**WHEREAS**, The issue of African American joblessness is not only an problem in Chicago, but it is a reflection of the widespread systemic economic inequality facing African American males on the state and national level; and

**WHEREAS**, Recent studies have shown joblessness has measurable effects on an individual's well-being, particularly on the proliferation of criminal behavior; and

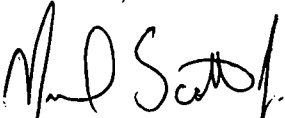

**WHEREAS**, The City of Chicago has many tools to fight African American unemployment as the University of Chicago Crime Lab in conjunction with One Summer Chicago Plus found a 43% decrease in arrest for youths who secured a part-time job with One Summer Chicago Plus; and

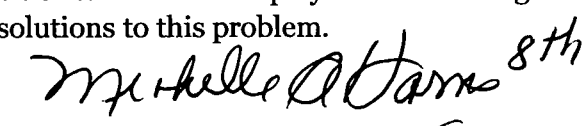
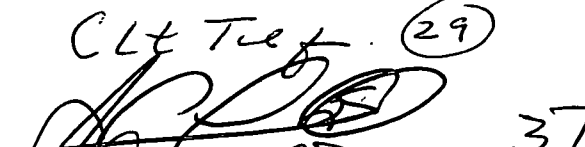
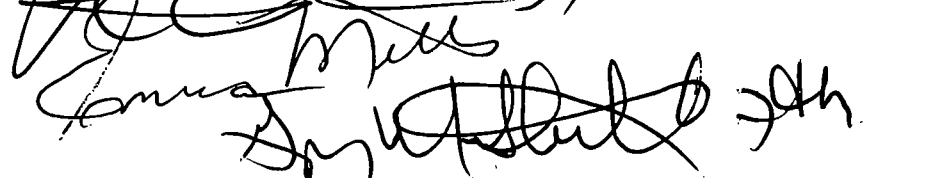
**WHEREAS**, This issue can not be ignored any longer and it is incumbent upon the City of Chicago to promote greater equity, opportunity and social mobility to what has historically been a neglected demographic; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Chicago hereby assembled on this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017, do direct the Committee on Workforce Development and Audit to hold a hearing(s) on the issue of African American male unemployment with the goal of increasing public awareness of this issue and identifying real solutions to this problem.



Pat Dowell  
Alderman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward

 24  
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 8<sup>th</sup>  
CLT Trust (29)  
 37  
 3<sup>th</sup>