



Office of the Chicago City
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R2012-268

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	3/14/2012
Sponsor(s):	Burnett, Walter (27)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Call for hearing(s) on Restorative Justice Programs and other proven strategies to reduce suspensions and expulsions in Chicago Public Schools
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Education and Child Development

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there were more than 40,000 students suspended and 600 students expelled from Chicago Public Schools (CPS) in the 2008-2009 school year; and

WHEREAS, this is roughly one suspension for every 10 CPS students; and

WHEREAS, many of these suspensions were for low-level, non-violent behaviors; and

WHEREAS, suspensions and expulsions affect student performance and graduation; and

WHEREAS, attendance is the most important determinant of passing classes and graduating; and

WHEREAS, a week of absence per semester substantially increases the likelihood of failing a class; and

WHEREAS, a student who is suspended just once is three times more likely to drop out of school; and

WHEREAS, African American male students who represent only 23% of CPS students, represented 48% of suspensions and 57% of expulsions; and

WHEREAS, this disparity mirrors the over representation of African Americans and Latinos in prison and jails; and

WHEREAS, 23 out of 100 male dropouts age 16-24 were incarcerated in 2006-2007; and

WHEREAS, nationwide more than half of high school dropouts ages 16-24 were jobless in an average month of 2006-2007; and

WHEREAS, the High HOPES (Healing Over the Punishment of Expulsions and Suspensions) campaign is calling on CPS to reduce suspensions and expulsions by 40% through the implementation Restorative Justice Programs as called for in CPS's Student Code of Conduct; and

WHEREAS, this year, CPS is spending more than \$67 million on zero tolerance strategies including security guards, metal detectors, and police in schools; and

WHEREAS, fully implementing Restorative Justice in every Chicago Public School would cost only \$44 million; and

WHEREAS, Restorative Justice is a way of bringing community and its various stakeholders together to repair harm and restore relationships; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and the Members of the Chicago City Council call on Chicago Public Schools to commit to reducing suspensions and expulsions by 40% in the upcoming school year through fully implementing Restorative Justice, by partnering with community and parent organizations to implement Restorative Justice Programs, and by shifting spending priorities from zero tolerance to Restorative Justice strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives from the Access Living, Chicago Public Schools, Blocks Together, Community Renewal Society, Enlace Chicago, Organization of the North East, POWER-PAC, Southwest Youth Collaborative, and Trinity United Church of Christ are hereby invited to appear before the Committee on Education and Child Development to testify at a public hearing regarding Restorative Justice Programs and other proven strategies.

Walter Burnett, Jr.
Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr. 27th Ward

Mary Pavenius
28th

David Hale
25th

Ray Seery 31st

Johnny Thompson 16th

Paul A. [Signature]

Michael D. [Signature] 24th

[Signature] 45th

James A. Boleen 11th

[Signature] 15th

Mary [Signature]

Mary [Signature]
Margaret [Signature]