



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Project Safe Neighborhoods was established in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Project Safe Neighborhoods expanded upon strategies used in Boston's Operation Ceasefire; known as the "Boston Miracle," and in Richmond's Project Exile, reported to have reduced gun homicides by, 40% from 1997 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, Project Safe Neighborhoods is part of a nationwide federally funded initiative designed to bring federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies together to produce a comprehensive and strategic approach to reducing gun crime; and

WHEREAS, Project Safe Neighborhoods is Chicago based and

WHEREAS, Project Safe Neighborhoods was intended to involve a multiagency task force of members from law enforcement and local community agencies, including representatives; from the Chicago Police, Department, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office; the Illinois Department of Corrections, the Cook County Department of Probation, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel, the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy, and the Chicago Crime Commission; and

WHEREAS, According to the study conducted by Papachristos, Meares, and Fagan (2007), Project Safe Neighborhoods treatment districts experienced a dramatic 3.7% drop in quarterly homicide rates during the observation periods - and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the Department of Justice awarded grants totaling \$5.7 million to create safer neighborhoods under the 2016 Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction (Project Safe Neighborhoods) Program to recipients in other states; and

WHEREAS, The January 13, 2017 Department of Justice investigation of the Chicago Police department confirmed that DOJ is working with the City of Chicago on criminal justice technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced their intent to transfer approximately 20 agents to Chicago in an effort to "beef up" the federal presence in the city; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently threatened to strip some "sanctuary cities" of coveted Justice Department grants from state and local law enforcement, saying those places that did not comply with a particular federal law on immigration would not be eligible for such funding; and

WHEREAS, 2016 was Chicago's most violent year in almost two decades with 4,367 shooting victims and 784 deaths; and

WHEREAS, As of February 26, 2017 Chicago already Had 1511 shooting victims and 102 gun-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Chicago City Council and the general public may not be aware of the status of 'Project Safe Neighborhoods and any related collaborative and multi-agency strategy intended to reduce violent crime; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Public Safety has jurisdiction over all matters relating to the Chicago Police Department and public safety initiatives; how therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee on Public Safety hold a public hearing on the status of

Project Safe Neighborhoods, the Chicago Police Department, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois, the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel, the Chicago Crime Commission, and any other party deemed relevant by the Committee Chair be asked to participate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Committee on Public Safety hold this meeting prior to the next May 2017 regular meeting of the Chicago City Council.