



NEWS RELEASE

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ALDERMEN LESLIE HAIRSTON AND JASON ERVIN SUPPORT ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY INPUT ON POLICE REFORM

Aldermen Leslie Hairston (5th) and Jason Ervin (28th), are working together on a final police accountability ordinance that preserves and makes stronger the tenets of the Independent Citizen Police Monitor and FAIR COPS ordinances they both introduced in City Council earlier this year.

Hairston's ordinance abolishes the Independent Police Review Authority and establishes, in its place, a credible civilian agency to investigate police misconduct and ensures the ICPM will have the powers it needs to perform high quality investigations, and be accountable to the public, unbiased, fully transparent, rigorous and independent. Ervin's ordinance calls for establishing an auditor for the Police Department within the Chicago Inspector General's office.

To be effective and transformational, both require community oversight and a dedicated funding source. To get real community input they are joining their colleagues on the Chicago City Council Progressive Reform Caucus to hold a series of public meetings throughout the city on the urgent topic of police reform and accountability.

"Given the enormity and seriousness of this problem, it is unreasonable to think that real reform can take place in a day or two," explains Hairston. "This is going to take time, and we have to take the time in order to get it right."

"I'm pleased to be joining my colleagues to work together on this critical effort," says Alderman Ervin. "Our constituents desperately want a police force they can trust to serve and protect them. Without real reforms, we will never be able to move forward as a community."

Hairston believes a range of five to seven public meetings should take place to evaluate what Chicago residents most impacted by police misconduct want to see in the final ordinance.

"Ald. Ervin and myself will look at our outlines and figure out what we should add and where we can improve our final ordinance," says Hairston.

The first public meeting on police reform will take place at Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Jackson Blvd., Conference Hall A 1108 on Thursday, July 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

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