

**Ald. Leslie Hairston's Statement On Mayor's Police Accountability Ordinance
City Council - October 5, 2016**

Once again, we find ourselves having no choice. Once again, it's what the mayor wants or nothing. It's not what the NAACP wants. It's not what Rainbow/PUSH wants. It's not what the Community Renewal Society wants. And it's not what many community organizations and activists want.

Six months ago, I introduced an ordinance to replace IPRA. At the time, the mayor said IPRA didn't need to be replaced. Ahead of the mayor's Police Accountability Task Force, my ordinance—calling for an Independent Citizen Police Monitor—addressed many of the recommendations articulated by its chair, Lori Lightfoot.

Last month, I re-introduced the ordinance taking into consideration Ald. Jason Ervin's concerns, so we wouldn't have competing ordinances.

Instead of giving my ordinance a public hearing, it languished in the Public Safety Committee, where it still is today.

Working with subject matter experts, the Independent Citizen Police Monitor Ordinance is grounded in national best practices that will ensure independence, accountability, transparency and community buy-in.

As my legal colleague said yesterday, the other half of independence is dependence. Independence starts with money. We can't expect this new agency to do more work with inadequate funding.

You can't have the same lawyers who represent police officers in civil rights cases selecting who represents the agency that's supposed to be independent.

You can't have the agency charged with investigating police be less than fully transparent. Unless the agency is fully transparent, there's no way it can be effective, and earn the public's trust. Nothing in the mayor's ordinance provides any more transparency than IPRA.

You can't have community oversight if the mayor still remains in control of the agency in charge of investigating police...if the mayor hires the person...if the mayor can fire the person...and if the mayor supervises the person.

Last, there's no jurisdiction for independent authority in the mayor's ordinance. Under the mayor's ordinance, a woman who's been raped by a police officer or a man who's the victim of excessive force must go to police to file a complaint.

This was our chance to get it right the first time, Chicago, before the U.S. Department of Justice tells us to start over again. Such an edict will cost us time and precious money.

Obviously, Chicago ain't ready for reform. Sadly, we prove it time and time again.