

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has paid over \$1.1 billion in settlements and judgements related to the actions of Chicago Police Department officers in the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago annually budgets \$82 million to cover the cost of police misconduct lawsuits, and yet routinely overspends that budget, outspending its 2024 budget by 31%; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has spent \$224.5 million in police misconduct settlements so far in 2025, nearly tripling the budgeted amount with 5 months still remaining in the year; and

WHEREAS, lawsuit settlements and judgments related to civil rights violations perpetrated by disgraced former police officers Jon Burge, Reynaldo Guevara, and Ronald Watts alone have already cost the City of Chicago over \$200 million, and is likely to cost hundreds of millions more, given the over 200 pending lawsuits against these officers; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice, in its investigation of the Chicago Police Department, found a clear pattern of civil rights violations—many of which are still being litigated in court—due to a lack of accountability and training, which resulted in the introduction of the consent decree in 2019; and

WHEREAS, as of the end of 2024, the Chicago Police Department has fully complied with only 16% of the consent decree, and 47% of the positions dedicated to implementing the consent decree are currently empty; and

WHEREAS, the rising costs of these settlements are preventing the City from investing in Chicago residents who are bearing the brunt of those costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago faces a shortfall of nearly \$1 billion for the 2026 budget that will necessitate tough decisions, which makes it all the more important to make sure we have both accurate information, and that the City is doing everything within its power to prevent further settlement costs as a result of police misconduct; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO that a Joint Hearing of the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Public Safety shall be held, convening the Department of Law, the Department of Finance, the Chicago Police Department, the Office of Budget Management, and all other associated departments to examine the City's methodology for determining settlement budgets, how they plan on making adjustments for future budgets, and how the City and the Chicago Police Department are tracking and addressing trends in police misconduct settlements to prevent future misconduct.



ANDRE VASQUEZ
Alderperson, 40th Ward