

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2025 students of Amundsen High School, Crane Medical Preparatory High School, Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy, Lake View High School, Michele Clark High School and Greater Lawndale High School for Social Justice participated in the Office of the City Clerk and Chicago Public Schools' "Next Gen City Council, which encourages students to be civically engaged and provides the Chicago Public School students an opportunity to participate in a mock City Council meeting where each of the students takes on the role of a member of City Council as they draft, debate, and vote on policies; and

WHEREAS, throughout the day, the student participants worked on separate ordinance drafts with the help of elected officials, community organizations, representatives from Chicago Public Schools, staff from the Office of the City Clerk and other civic leaders, to be presented to and voted on by the full group during the Next Gen City Council meeting to wrap up the day; now, therefore,

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Chicago:

SECTION 1. The Next Gen Committee on Public Safety crafted an ordinance that all participating students could support; and

SECTION 2. The Next Gen Committee on Public Safety now brings before the City Council the following ordinance for passage:

Whereas, violence is a major problem affecting public safety among Chicago's youth; and

Whereas, many teens experience trauma and lack of support at home; and

Whereas, anger can build up and lead to depression and destructive behavior; and

Whereas, when young people don't receive needed support our businesses, communities and families suffer; and

Whereas, social media can numb, normalize or even glorify violence for youth; and

Whereas, historical and systemic practices like discrimination have created many barriers while lack of support and positive opportunities further isolate and disenfranchise our youth; and

Whereas, with more support mechanisms and opportunities for engagement teens could have a major and positive impact on safety in Chicago; and

Whereas, the ordinance proposes pop-up programs led by a teen council in

hopes of curbing gun violence in communities specifically targeted by it. These programs specifically entail hands-on activities, physical sports, and artistry (murals and public artwork around the city) The purpose of these programs is to allow the teens of Chicago to find a safe space where they can learn, engage and thrive; and

Whereas, creating a place where children can be unapologetically themselves while learning how to collaborate with one another will not only build confidence and foster friendships but also help to curb the effects of gun violence in our city. As Next Gen City Council participants who have been personally affected by gun violence, we have seen firsthand the negative impact of gun violence and its ability to be detrimental to individuals and families; now, therefore,

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Chicago:

Section 1. The Municipal Code is hereby amended to improve and activate existing community areas (especially Park District) to enhance spaces for young people (specifically grades 6-12) by:

- **Developing a youth council to advise Park District on programming and outreach.**
 - The Youth Council would work with Park District leadership as a whole
 - Several youths will be based on-site at different facilities
 - The Youth Council would support and advise specifically on:
- **Events** (good fun events to bring people in and together)
- **Programming:** ensure hands-on, physical activities, art programs
 - **Mentorship programs:** Collaborate and partner with mentorship programs at Park District facilities. Mentors that have relevant life experience should be prioritized
 - **Partnerships** to prioritize:
 - **Outreach:** to youth who could most benefit; also, to those already in the parks/facilities to "bring them in" versus making them unwelcome
 - **Mental health support** for survivors of trauma/violence
 - **Hours:** evaluate how to expand late night options

Section 2. This ordinance will be in force and effect upon its passage and publication.

SECTION 3. This ordinance will be in force and effect upon its passage and publication.



Andrea M. Valencia



Matthew J. Martin



Ronnie L. Mosley

City Clerk

Alderman, 47th Ward

Alderman, 21st Ward