

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2025, Cook County State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke and Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling jointly announced the expansion of the Felony Review Bypass Program, a pilot initiative initially launched in January 2025 at the Chicago Police Department's 007th District (Englewood); and

WHEREAS, the program empowers responding police officers, in consultation with supervisors, to directly file charges in three eligible nonviolent felony gun possession cases – Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon, and Aggravated Unlawful Possession of a Weapon – without the need for prior felony review approval from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office; and

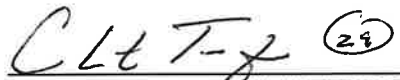
WHEREAS, this process change aims to alleviate a longstanding bottleneck in the criminal justice system by reducing the wait time for felony review callbacks, thereby returning officers to patrol duties more quickly and enabling prosecutors to prioritize violent and complex cases; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the pilot program has resulted in 43 bypass cases being filed in the 007th District, with all 30 cases that reached the preliminary hearing or grand jury stage proceeding successfully, and additional cases still pending legal review; and

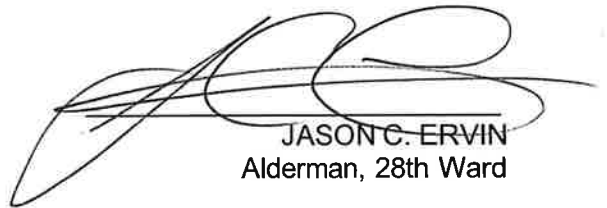
WHEREAS, the program has now expanded to the 005th District (Calumet), another high-volume district, based on the pilot's early success; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby call upon the Committee on Police and Fire to convene a subject matter hearing to examine the Felony Review Bypass Program, its expansion, oversight structure, legal outcomes, and implications for public safety, prosecutorial discretion, and constitutional rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives from the Chicago Police Department, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and the Public Defender's Office be invited to provide testimony and data regarding the program's development, implementation, efficacy, and potential unintended consequences.



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Alderman, 29th Ward



JASON C. ERVIN
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