

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Violence interrupters, organizations often consisting of formerly incarcerated individuals whose firsthand experience enables them to effectively de-escalate potentially violent situations, play a crucial role in preventing violence within the City of Chicago, particularly among young individuals; and

WHEREAS, These individuals often work within communities that are prone to violence, using their credibility, communication skills, and understanding of conflict resolution techniques to mediate conflicts and prevent violent acts from occurring; and

WHEREAS, Primarily, their work is focused on promoting peace, reducing violence, and fostering safer communities; and

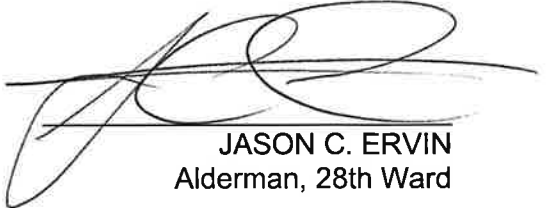
WHEREAS, Numerous barriers within State law and City code currently prevent certain violence interrupters from pursuing employment opportunities within schools; and

WHEREAS, For example, individuals convicted of certain drug offenses, other than Class X felonies, are required to wait seven years following their release from incarceration before becoming eligible to apply for an educational license to work within schools; and

WHEREAS, As we diligently seek solutions to mitigate violence within the City of Chicago, it is important to recognize that violence interrupters constitute a fundamental component of this effort; and

WHEREAS, City Council should address these barriers hindering individuals from engaging as violence interrupters in schools; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the City Council, call upon the Committee on Education and Child Development to hold a subject matter hearing to discuss any laws or policies that prevent violence interrupters from being able to work within schools based on convictions for non-violent offenses.



JASON C. ERVIN
Alderman, 28th Ward