



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2026-2

**INVESTING IN YOUTH LEADERSHIP TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY-BASED
PEACEKEEPING AND ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP THE
PEACEBOOK PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, community violence is a profound public health crisis that demands a primary prevention approach: preventing violence before it occurs by increasing awareness, expanding safe alternatives to large gatherings when they become unsafe, intervening early, surrounding children and young people with protective supports, strengthening families and caregivers, deepening community connections and advancing a culture rooted in peace, equity and justice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has made significant and sustained investments in violence prevention, intervention, and other critical public resources that have measurably reduced violence across the City. As a direct result of these investments, Chicago in 2025, recorded the lowest number of homicides in six decades, reaching levels not seen since 1965; and

WHEREAS, the 16- to 24-year-old age range represents a particularly critical demographic for violence prevention and community safety, and connecting young people to employment and peacekeeping initiatives during this pivotal period is strongly associated with positive long-term outcomes, including a reduced likelihood of becoming either victims or perpetrators of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, in the five community areas with the highest number of One Summer Chicago hires—Austin, Auburn Gresham, Roseland, South Shore, and North Lawndale—the City recorded double-digit declines in shootings and homicides from Summer 2024 to Summer 2025, demonstrating the measurable impact of targeted youth employment and community investment; and

WHEREAS, The “Peacebook” is a plan developed by young people from GoodKids MadCity and endorsed by organizations and young people across the City to reduce violence and support community-building.

WHEREAS, youth-led restorative justice models like the Peacebook serve to empower young people who are the most at-risk of violent crime to interrupt the cycle of violence; and

WHEREAS, for the past two years, Chicago has invested in summer youth-led peacekeeping in coordination with Chicago youth-led organizations that conducts and advocates for youth-led peacekeeping; and

WHEREAS, all Chicagoans will benefit if year-round, youth-led peacekeeping is integrated into the City's programmatic investments in reducing violence and empowering young people; now, therefore,

I, Brandon Johnson, Mayor of the City of Chicago, do hereby order as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Order is to strengthen youth safety, expand youth-led violence prevention strategies, and establish a working group to support the development of and funding for a year-round Youth Peacekeeping Program.

SECTION 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE YOUTH PEACEKEEPING PROGRAM.

There is hereby established a permanent, year-round, Youth Peacekeeping Program ("The Program") to provide conflict resolution, support, resource navigation, and youth-led community safety initiatives.

SECTION 3. PERSONNEL

YOUTH PEACEKEEPERS AND YOUTH SAFETY ADVISORS

Subject to appropriation, the Department of Family Support Services (DFSS) shall grant up to \$900,000 to a trusted and experienced violence prevention organization to execute a year-round, youth-led, Youth Peacekeeping Program to hire up to 50 "Youth Peacekeepers", employed up to twenty hours per week, or fewer hours as required by school attendance or applicable labor laws, and up to four "Youth Safety Advisors", employed thirty-five hours per week to supervise, mentor, and guide the Youth Peacekeepers.

Youth Peacekeepers shall be responsible for:

1. Training young people in conflict resolution and de-escalation skills; facilitating peace circles; connecting youth and families to resources and support services; organizing youth networks for mutual aid and providing a resource-first approach to youth services and violence prevention.
2. Collaborating with DFSS and other departments and stakeholders to develop a youth-led resource map to be integrated into the MyChi My Future app as an initial step towards creating a "Peacebook App".
3. Meeting collectively to develop the model for the Peacebook Pilot, with the goal of establishing a scalable framework for widespread investment in youth peacekeeping and resource provision.

SECTION 4. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING

Subject to appropriation, DFSS shall allocate funding for the administrative and overhead expenses necessary to develop, implement, and support the Program and its participants.

SECTION 5. PEACEBOOK WORKING GROUP

A) Establishment

There is hereby established the Peacebook Working Group ("Working Group"). The purpose of the Working Group is to study and make recommendations regarding policies and programs for a "Peacebook Pilot" including the hiring of local youth peacekeepers to de-escalate violence, lead community building activities, and develop a "Peacebook" web application to connect Chicagoans to resources. The Working Group shall convene no later than 30 days after the effective date of this order.

B) Purpose

The Working Group's responsibilities will be to:

- (1) Make recommendations for the Peacebook Pilot including implementation recommendations to hire and support youth peacekeepers, including best practices for supervision, management, training, and support.
- (2) Make recommendations for the establishment of neighborhood-based and citywide Peace Commission, including what resources and support will be provided to those Peace Commissioners as they guide and supervise the work of the youth peacekeepers; establish a proposed budget, funding source, and rollout plan for the Peacebook Pilot; and develop a strategy to ensure that youth voice and leadership are centered in every aspect of Peacebook Pilot implementation.
- (3) Make recommendations for a Peacebook App that connects youth and their families to resources and activities across the City.
- (4) Make recommendations for how Youth Peacekeeping will address emerging trends and rapid response needs related to youth experiences with violence and safety.

C) Composition

- (1) The Working Group shall consist of the following members:

The Deputy Mayor of Education and Youth Services of the City of Chicago, or their designee, who shall serve as chair ("Chair");

A Youth co-chair, between the ages of 16-24, appointed by the Chair;

Representatives from the Department of Family and Support Services; the Mayor's Office of Community Safety; the Office of Budget and Management;

Up to 8 members appointed by the Chair with experience in youth anti-violence; adult mentors of youth anti-violence advocates; youth; youth-serving organizations; survivors of police and intercommunal violence; anti-violence researchers; gender-based violence advocates; and violence intervention practitioners.

D) Meetings and Report

The Working Group will meet at minimum three times within the first 180 days, following its establishment. and deliver its recommendations in a written report to the Mayor, the Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Relations, the Chair of the Committee on Education and Child Development, the Chair of the Public Safety Committee and the Chair of the Subcommittee on Youth Employment no later than March 1, 2027.

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

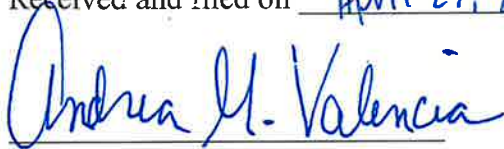
DFSS and any other relevant City departments and agencies are directed to take necessary actions to implement this Order in alignment with the principles of the youth-led Peacebook Pilot initiative and youth peacekeeping programming. All relevant City departments and agencies are directed to take the necessary actions to carry out this Order consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

This Order will take effect upon its execution and filing with the City Clerk.



Mayor

Received and filed on April 27, 2026



City Clerk

Chicago City Clerk - Council Div.
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