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April 4, 2025

The Honorable Brandon Johnson
Mayor, City of Chicago
121 N. LaSalle Street, Fifth Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

RE: Violent Teen Gatherings in Streeterville

Dear Mayor Johnson:

We are writing to you regarding violent Teen Takeovers in the Streeterville neighborhood, which have occurred with increasing frequency.

Last summer, on numerous occasions, hundreds of teenagers would meet up in Streeterville and cause trouble. Residents and business owners have reported being harassed, threatened, and robbed during these gatherings. On Friday, June 1, 2024, a woman was attacked during a Teen Takeover and miscarried shortly after the incident.

In the past three weeks, these gatherings have resulted in a tourist and 15-year-old being shot. Additionally, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) has recovered multiple illegal firearms (and fake guns) during the gatherings. Teenagers who carry unlawful or replica firearms are not innocent children, nor do they have the community's best interest at heart.

Thousands of scared and angry constituents have contacted our offices to express their frustrations with these Teen Takeovers. We appreciate and welcome the heightened police presence in Streeterville. However, as we witnessed last Friday, a large police presence is not enough to deter Teen Takeovers.

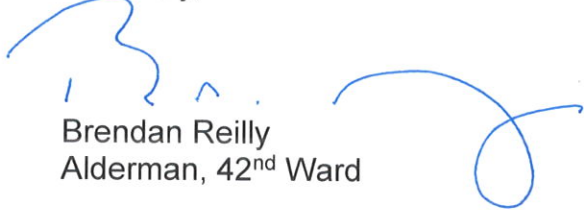
We respectfully request that you reconsider your position on amending the curfew for minors to 8:00 PM and stop blocking the City Council from debating/voting on O2024-0010163.

Additionally, we request that your administration work with Chicago Public Schools to notify parents about potential Teen Takeovers identified by CPD and the violence that has occurred at recent events. Ideally parents will prevent their minor children from participating in future gatherings.

We are hopeful that you will partner with our offices to improve public safety and prevent future violence. If nothing changes, it is only a matter of time before another shooting happens or someone is killed.

Thank you in advance for your help with this issue. If your staff have any follow-up questions, they are welcome to contact our offices directly.

Sincerely,



Brendan Reilly
Alderman, 42nd Ward



Brian Hopkins
Alderman, 2nd Ward

CC:

Larry Snelling, Chicago Police Department Superintendent
Jon Hein, Chicago Police Department Chief
Joe Bird, Chicago Police Department Deputy Chief
Mike Neckermann, Chicago Police Department 18th District Commander
Sean B. Harden, Chicago Board of Education President
Jessica Biggs, Chicago Board of Education Member District 6B
Anusha Thotakura, Chicago Board of Education Member District 6A