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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention began planning a public health strategy to increase neighborhood safety; the goals of this multi-pronged anti-violence intervention include decreasing shootings and killings, changing norms of violence in high crime neighborhoods, and creating positive opportunities for the highest risk individuals; and the full implementation of this plan, called "CeaseFire", began in 2000; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the CeaseFire project, West Garfield Park (WGP) saw two periods of 90 days each with no shootings during the spring and summer of 2000; this was previously unheard of in that community; WGP went on to see a 67% (from 43 to 14) reduction in shootings for 2000; and

WHEREAS, Since that time the reduction has been maintained and subsequent reductions have been seen in at least 5 new CeaseFire implementation areas; during 2001-2003, the new CeaseFire communities experienced average decreases in shootings from 33-65%; in 2004, the seven communities fully implementing CeaseFire again averaged 48% reductions in shootings; and in addition, the Logan Square community had a drop in homicides from 12 to 1 (92% reduction); and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Project for Violence Prevention is housed at the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago; and

WHEREAS, There are long waiting periods between expenditures from CeaseFire operations and State reimbursements from the Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, Funding that is directly given to the University of Illinois at Chicago for CeaseFire administration would

1 reduce these waiting periods; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we urge the General Assembly to streamline CeaseFire
5 administration and allow funding to be directly given to the
6 University of Illinois at Chicago, in addition to their regular
7 funding, to avoid long waiting periods between expenditures and
8 State reimbursements from the Department of Corrections.