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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Following the release of the Laquan McDonald shooting video in November of 2015, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel appointed the Police Accountability Task Force to complete a report on the Chicago Police Department; and

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WHEREAS, It has been determined by the Police Accountability Task Force that the Chicago Police Department has been plagued by officers who contribute to the systemic racism that fosters oppressive policing tactics and has thoroughly failed to maintain the trust of both African-American and Hispanic communities; and

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WHEREAS, High profile cases, such as the Laquan McDonald shooting, have shed light upon a culture of cover-ups, evidence manipulation, falsified reports, and a complete lack of accountability within the Chicago Police Department; and

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WHEREAS, Decades of community complaints involving stops without justification, verbal and physical abuse, unnecessary arrests, and detainment without legal counsel have rarely been recognized as legitimate by the Chicago Police Department; and

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WHEREAS, Both Hispanic and African-American communities have disproportionately been the victims of the institutional

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1 racism within the Chicago Police Department; and

2 WHEREAS, African-Americans make up roughly one-third of
3 Chicago's population, and yet they were the subjects in 72% of
4 investigative street stops that did not lead to arrests in
5 2014; and

6 WHEREAS, African-Americans were also the subjects in 46% of
7 traffic stops in 2013 and justifiably feel targeted by those
8 sworn to protect and serve their respective communities; and

9 WHEREAS, Chicago taxpayers bear the burden of settlement
10 costs associated with unnecessary detainment, injuries due to
11 the use of excessive force, and wrongful death; and

12 WHEREAS, In December 2015, the United States Department of
13 Justice began a pattern and practice investigation into: 1)
14 whether the Chicago Police Department routinely violates the
15 civil rights of citizens; 2) the Department's use of force
16 policies and practices; 3) the Department's systems of
17 accountability; and 4) whether racial or ethnic disparities
18 exist in these areas; and

19 WHEREAS, Though trust cannot be built overnight, working
20 toward strong police and community relations is essential in
21 helping to combat violent crime in the City of Chicago; and

1 WHEREAS, While many Chicago Police Department officers
2 commendably perform their duties with the intention of lawfully
3 ensuring public safety and building relationships with the
4 citizens in the communities in which they live and work, the
5 prevalence of predatory policing steeped in bigotry in poor
6 communities of color diminishes those efforts; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Chicago
9 Police Department to fully cooperate with the U.S. Department
10 of Justice investigation and to begin implementing
11 recommendations outlined in the recent Police Accountability
12 Task Force report; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That, because it is the sworn duty of the Chicago
14 Police Department to police fairly and not to allow prejudices
15 or animosities to influence on-duty decisions, we encourage the
16 Department to respect and uphold the civil rights of all
17 citizens, to be transparent, and to improve the Department's
18 systems of accountability.