



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **ALD. LESLIE HAIRSTON RESPONDS TO MAYOR'S PROPOSED POLICE REFORMS**

“The difficult I’ll do right now, the impossible will take a little while,” seem to be the lyrics Mayor Rahm Emanuel is offering the public in response to the 190-page report by the Police Accountability Task Force which recommends sweeping changes in the Chicago Police Department in the wake of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald’s death by police.

While the mayor calls his announcement to put in place a number of recommendations, that have been agreed to already, a “down payment,” a real investment toward reform would be to dismantle the Independent Police Review Authority for a credible citizen agency to investigate police shootings, use of force, domestic violence, bias, and coercion. Based on IPRA’s record of finding only two accusations of police misconduct credible out of 409 police shootings investigated since 2007, the agency has no credibility.

It makes no sense for the mayor, who initially called an investigation by the Department of Justice “misguided,” to wait. This is our opportunity to get in front of the DOJ and do what needs to be done to ensure independent and fair investigations for everyone. Since 2004, Chicago has paid out \$660 million of taxpayer money for police misconduct. This is another example of being penny wise and pound foolish, because any court-ordered reforms and oversight by the DOJ will cost taxpayers more money.

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