

# Building a Safe Chicago

## Calling for a Comprehensive Plan

Community groups and civic institutions emphasize the need for a full-fledged strategy on a scale adequate to address root causes of violence, identifying five core components of such a plan.

### Summary: Smart Tools for Decision-Making

#### 1. Put Public Health First

- Prevent violence, reduce risk, and treat trauma using proven approaches that include the highest-risk people.
- Design, build, fund, and assess a comprehensive plan to keep Chicagoans safe, using a collaborative public health process.
- Consistently prioritize public health approaches -- especially prevention -- including during upward trends in violence.

#### 2. Reduce Illegal Handgun Availability

- Require Illinois gun dealers to be licensed, in order to:
  - Track lost or stolen gun shop inventory.
  - Identify and track probable straw purchasing incidents.
  - Focus enforcement efforts on the small number of bad-actor dealers.

#### 3. Tailor Punishment to the Crime

- Laws should recognize and respond to the fact that most unlawful gun possession is defensive and nonviolent, but risky.
- Reduce repeat gun possession by identifying and addressing its causes.
- Evidence-informed programs delivered via probation show promise for medium-to-high risk gun possessors -- especially young people -- and are more proportionate, effective responses to many repeat gun possession cases than prison terms.

#### 4. Ensure Police Effectiveness

- Build trust through responsiveness and accountability.
  - Develop equitable response in police services.
  - Adopt Mayor's Police Accountability Task Force reforms.
  - Increase closure rates of violent crimes.

#### 5. Invest to Achieve Equity

- Prioritize community-based alternatives to pretrial detention and incarceration and reinvest savings into community-based prevention and early intervention.
- Reassess traditional spending priorities by program and neighborhood.
  - Determine demographics of potential beneficiaries of publicly funded projects.
  - Restructure projects to reduce existing service and investment gaps, especially racial- and poverty-related gaps.
- Work with economically-disadvantaged communities to set spending priorities.

