Stand with us on MLK Day; Fight with us in the Year Ahead

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address. Before a crowd of thousands, he recounted the many accomplishments of his historic presidency—criminal justice reform that narrowed racial disparities in sentencing, the Affordable Care Act that increased access to healthcare, marriage equality for the LBTQ community, immigration protections for many undocumented youth, and economic policies that brought our country out of recession and created new job opportunities for under- and unemployed.

Four days from now, however, a new Administration will assume power with clear signals to dismantle many of our hard-won gains.

Dr. King once said that “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” We are entering difficult times—times that will test and challenge our resolve. Chicago, where Dr. King once launched the “northern front” of his civil rights movement, today remains one of the nation’s most racially segregated cities. Our homicide rate is the highest in 20 years, while public trust in the police has eroded to a crisis point.

This is why Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights begins 2017 with a bold mission to...
Last week, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) released its report after a yearlong investigation into the patterns and practices of the Chicago Police Department. Its findings confirmed what we already knew: The accountability system for police misconduct is broken. Police officers are not adequately trained for their duties and they engage in a pattern of using deadly force that is unreasonable.

The Chicago Lawyers' Committee has joined with other leading civil rights organizations and policy groups to form the Police Accountability Collaborative, a new coalition that uses local power and advocacy to implement the reforms our city desperately needs to restore trust between police and the communities they serve.

As we pause to remember Dr. King's legacy today, help us commit to continue his fight. Follow The Collaborative on Twitter and sign up for the latest news and updates here. In the uncertain and turbulent days to come, we cannot rely on federal enforcement to achieve the progress we seek. Together, we can win these gains to make our city and our neighborhoods safe and just for all.
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