



**RACIAL**

**JUSTICE**

**SCORECARD**

A REPORT ON RACIAL EQUITY &  
ALDERMANIC ACCOUNTABILITY  
IN CHICAGO



**JANUARY 2019**

**CENTER FOR RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY**

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## ABOUT CRGE

The Center for Racial and Gender Equity (CRGE) works to build the power of Black women most directly impacted by the intersections of violently racialized and gendered capitalism to advance a radical vision for liberation, through leadership development and political engagement.

CRGE achieves this by running grassroots policy and electoral campaigns, engaging Black voters and building Black women's leadership to advance a legislative agenda and political candidates who explicitly support Black women's Liberation.

As we approach the 2019 municipal elections, CRGE is working to equip voters with critical electoral resources, including aldermanic scorecards, policy guides and candidate questionnaires in order to inform and mobilize a powerful base of Black voters to elect candidates who represent our communities and are committed to fighting for equity, justice and liberation.



# SCORECARD OVERVIEW

The Racial Justice Scorecard is designed to serve as an informational resource for voters, activists and organizations committed to advancing safety, opportunity and liberation for people of color, by electing candidates that reflect our communities, share our values and champion our self-interests. With the goal of improving the accountability, transparency and accessibility of municipal government, this report equips readers with a quantified assessment of the racial justice impact of the city council as a whole, as well as that of individual aldermen. The guide also includes a policy agenda that outlines CRGE's recommendations for building racial equity in Chicago.

## City Council Scorecard

CRGE based its grade of the full city council on an analysis of its legislative activities within the current aldermanic term, which began in May 2015. By applying a racial justice approach, the scorecard evaluates the city council's actions on key policies that would either systemically benefit or harm Black Chicagoans. CRGE considered the city council's performance on a wide range of issues, including police accountability, equitable economic investment, schools, workers rights and affordable housing.

The city council's failing score reflects its unwavering adherence to a longstanding agenda to further enrich an affluent and overwhelmingly white Chicago through the methodical subjugation, extraction, exploitation, and ultimate disposal of Black



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communities. While the governing body passed several perfunctory reform measures in the area of workers rights, it altogether ignored the demands of Black constituents on issues related to police violence, economic disinvestment, inequitable schools, neighborhood displacement and housing injustice.

The overall grade of city council falls significantly below the average scores of individual aldermen, attesting to the fact that political power is not distributed equally among representatives, but rather is concentrated within the minority of city lawmakers most committed to preserving systems of racial inequity. Having amassed inordinate political access, resources and influence through their steadfast allegiance to systems of white supremacy, these favored few dictate the collective actions of the city council by controlling which measures are called for hearings and votes, and how their aldermanic foot soldiers will act on such items. Ultimately, however, it is the pervasive complicity and lack of political courage among rank-and-file aldermen that preserves this toxic power dynamic.

### **Aldermanic Scorecard**

The rules that govern the city council are rigorously designed to insulate members from outside scrutiny and present unique challenges to a

substantive evaluation of individual aldermanic performance. An audit of voting histories, for example, offers little insight into lawmakers' positions on racial justice issues, as the vast majority of aldermen rarely act independently, but rather vote with the mayor and council leadership over 90% of the time. In the case of a divisive vote on a policy that threatens to expose aldermen to political controversy, council leadership often calls for a voice vote, the records of which are not made available on the city's website. For this reason CRGE did not factor voting records into individual scores, but rather investigated aldermen's record of ordinance sponsorship as the most reliable indication of a lawmaker's independent position on a policy matter.

This approach offers no refuge for aldermen who have remained silent on issues of racial justice, complacent in the understanding that the support of their white constituents or affluent campaign donors are secured, so long as the city's prevailing power structures remain unchallenged. Given the astounding structural inequity, injustice and violence waged against Black Chicagoans, CRGE contends that a failure to actively leverage the privileges of office to advance racial progress constitutes an unconscionable breach of duty.

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By centering grading criteria around ordinance sponsorship histories, the scorecard establishes proactive racial justice advocacy as an imperative of office.

The aldermanic scorecard assesses the individual performances of city lawmakers within the current term, excluding officials who were seated at a later date. Using records made available on the city council website, CRGE awarded points for introducing (+1.25 point) and sponsoring (+1 point)

city ordinances, orders and resolutions that would advance equity for Black Chicagoans. Conversely, points were deducted for introducing (-1.25 point) and sponsoring (-1 point) measures that would threaten racial justice in Chicago.

Individual aldermanic grades are based on a curve, which was applied to the entire city council. For a complete record of the Racial Justice Scorecard grading criteria, refer to page i and ii of the Appendix.

# CITY COUNCIL SCORECARD

Scoring is based on a racial justice analysis of the city council's legislative actions within the current aldermanic term (beginning in May 2015) on key issues, including police accountability, equitable investment, schools, workers rights and housing justice.

## POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Failed to negotiate a just police contract to end the officer code of silence and police impunity



Failed to abolish or impose restrictions on CPD's inaccurate and racially targeted gang database



Passed new legislation to further empower law enforcement to survey, arrest, and charge residents on suspicion of loitering and sex work



Failed to prohibit CPD from reporting undocumented residents to ICE officials



Repealed the city's racially discriminatory and unconstitutional "panhandling" ordinance



Failed to establish a democratically elected representative police board



## EQUITABLE ECONOMIC INVESTMENT

Failed to pass the "Back to Basics" TIF reform ordinance to restrict the allocation of TIF funding exclusively to projects in economically distressed neighborhoods



Deferred to "aldermanic prerogative" to block affordable housing development in majority white wards



Established a task force to address the city's predatory reliance on fine, fee and debt collection



Failed to establish progressive revenue sources on corporations and high end real estate transfers



Called for the Illinois General Assembly to implement a progressive statewide income tax



## JOBS AND WORKERS RIGHTS

Passed new legislation that requires employers to offer regular employees paid sick leave	★
Failed to implement an immediate increase in the city's minimum wage to \$15/hour	✗
Required hotels to protect worker safety by equipping room cleaners with emergency contact devices	★
Failed to pass the Fair Workweek Ordinance to protect workers from scheduling abuse	✗
Established an Office of Labor Standards to enforce worker protections & investigate complaints	★
Implemented bid preferences for companies with racially inclusive management and workforces	★

## EQUITABLE SCHOOLS

Failed to call for the Chicago Board of Education to extend the moratorium on school closures	✗
Failed to call for the state legislature to authorize an Elected Representative School Board	✗
Failed to increase funding to schools by passing the Chicago Employers' Expense Tax and Development Incentive, TIF Surplus Ordinance or similar measure	✗

## FAIR AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Failed to call for the Illinois General Assembly to lift the statewide ban on rent control	✗
Failed to impose adequate requirements on the Affordable Requirements Ordinance (ARO)	✗
Failed to improve transparency, performance and oversight over the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) by passing the Keeping the Promise Ordinance or a similar measure	✗

**FINAL SCORE:**





# ALDERMANIC SCORECARD

Individual aldermanic scores are based on an analysis of city lawmakers' ordinance and sponsorship histories on key racial justice policies since the beginning of the current aldermanic term. The scorecard excludes lawmakers who were seated mid-term.

Joe Moreno	1st Ward	B	Walter Burnett, Jr.	27th Ward	D
Brian Hopkins	2nd Ward	F	Jason Ervin	28th Ward	B
Pat Dowell	3rd Ward	B	Chris Taliaferro	29th Ward	A
Leslie Hairston	5th Ward	B	Ariel Reboyras	30th Ward	C
Roderick Sawyer	6th Ward	A	Milagros Santiago	31st Ward	B
Gregory Mitchell	7th Ward	C	Scott Waguespack	32nd Ward	A
Michelle Harris	8th Ward	B	Deborah Mell	33rd Ward	B
Anthony Beale	9th Ward	D	Carrie Austin	34th Ward	C
Susan Garza	10th Ward	A	Carlos Ramirez-Rosa	35th Ward	A
Patrick Thompson	11th Ward	F	Gilbert Villegas	36th Ward	B
George Cardenas	12th Ward	D	Emma Mitts	37th Ward	C
Marty Quinn	13th Ward	F	Nicholas Sposato	38th Ward	F
Edward Burke	14th Ward	F	Margaret Laurino	39th Ward	F
Raymond Lopez	15th Ward	C	Patrick O'Connor	40th Ward	F
Toni Foulkes	16th Ward	A	Anthony Napolitano	41st Ward	D
David Moore	17th Ward	B	Brendan Reilly	42nd Ward	F
Derrick Curtis	18th Ward	C	Michele Smith	43rd Ward	C
Matthew O'Shea	19th Ward	F	Thomas Tunney	44th Ward	D
Willie Cochran	20th Ward	D	John Arena	45th Ward	A
Howard Brookins, Jr.	21st Ward	C	James Cappleman	46th Ward	B
Ricardo Munoz	22nd Ward	A	Ameya Pawar	47th Ward	A
Micheal Scott	24th Ward	C	Harry Osterman	48th Ward	C
Daniel Solis	25th Ward	C	Joseph Moore	49th Ward	D
Roberto Maldonado	26th Ward	B	Debra Silverstein	50th Ward	D

# RACIAL JUSTICE POLICY AGENDA

## POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

- ★ Secure community control of the police by establishing a democratically elected representative police board
- ★ Negotiate FOP contract to eliminate all existing provisions that obstruct police misconduct investigations
- ★ Prohibit CPD from reporting undocumented residents to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- ★ Establish community based restorative justice programs that offer individuals constructive diversions to arrest
- ★ Abolish the city's unconstitutional and racially targeted gang database

## EQUITABLE ECONOMIC INVESTMENT

- ★ End fiscal reliance on regressive taxes, fees and fines that disproportionately burden communities of color
- ★ Implement progressive revenue sources such as the corporate head tax and \$750K+ real estate transfer tax
- ★ Pass the "Back to Basics" Ordinance to restrict TIF funding to projects in economically distressed districts
- ★ Enact a freeze on new TIF districts & projects pending an independent investigation and public hearing on TIF program
- ★ Commission independent racial impact assessments & public hearings for new developments & corporate incentive bids

## JOB AND WORKERS RIGHTS

- ★ Implement an immediate increase in the city's minimum wage to \$15/hour
- ★ Pass the Fair Workweek Ordinance to offer workers more hours, paycheck stability & control over schedules
- ★ Call upon the state legislature to allow for a municipal Earned Income Tax Credit for working households

## FAIR AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- ★ Call for the state legislature to lift Illinois' ban on rent control and enact a municipal rent control ordinance
- ★ Pass the Development for All Ordinance to strengthen affordable housing requirements for new developments
- ★ Reverse planned racial segregation and displacement by ending the practice of aldermanic prerogative and downzoning, which are used to impede affordable housing development in majority white wards
- ★ Require the Chicago Housing Authority to replace eliminated public housing units
- ★ Commission an independent racial impact assessment and hold public hearings on proposed housing developments

## EQUITABLE SCHOOLS

- ★ Call upon the state legislature to allow CPS to establish an Elected Representative School Board
- ★ Call for the Chicago Board of Education to extend the lapsed moratorium on school closures
- ★ Increase funding to CPS through the Employers' Expense Tax and Development Incentive or TIF Surplus Ordinance

## DIRECT DEMOCRACY

- ★ Implement a Rank Choice Voting system to ensure greater electoral equity for grassroots candidates of color
- ★ Establish a publicly financed small donor matching system for municipal campaigns
- ★ Approve binding ballot measures initiated by residents and local grassroots organizations

# APPENDIX

## Chicago Aldermen

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# Racial Justice Scorecard

Ordinance Number	Ordinance Name	Category	Position
<a href="#">R2017-125</a>	Police Union Reform Resoltution	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">SO2016-5707</a>	Democratically Elected Police Control Boards	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">O2018-6403</a>	Gang Database Regulation	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">R2018-839</a>	Police Arrest Database	Police Reform	Oppose
<a href="#">R2016-19</a>	CPD Non Lethal Force	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">Or2016-30</a>	Prohibit CPD from Destroying Documents	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">R2015-974</a>	Laquan McDonald Hearing	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">Or2017-453</a>	Urge Mayor to Implement Police Consent Decree	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">R2015-975</a>	Special Prosecutor for Jason Van Dyke	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">R2015-808</a>	Hearings on Police Surveillance	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">R2015-976</a>	Hearings on Police Accountability	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">R2016-626</a>	Hearing on Disproportionate number of Black missing persons	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">O2017-1018</a>	Amends Welcoming Clty Ordinance	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">O2016-6517</a>	Welcoming Clty Ordinance	Police Reform	Support
<a href="#">SO2017-8319</a>	Increased Criminal Penalties Against Loitering and Prostitution	Police Reform	Oppose
<a href="#">O2016-8118</a>	"Back to Basics" Tax Increment Finance Reform	Equitable Economic Investment	Support
<a href="#">Or2018-22</a>	Property Tax Reassessment Order	Equitable Economic Investment	Support
<a href="#">O2017-3377</a>	Chicago Employers' Expense Tax and Development Incentive	Equitable Economic Investment	Support
<a href="#">R2015-866</a>	Resolution for Graduated Income Tax	Equitable Economic Investment	Support
<a href="#">R2018-681</a>	Call for UBI and EITC Study	Equitable Economic Investment	Support
<a href="#">O2015-5397</a>	Keeping the Promise Ordinance	Housing	Support
<a href="#">O2018-5099</a>	Homes for All Ordinance	Housing	Support
<a href="#">O2018-5102</a>	Development for All Ordinance	Housing	Support
<a href="#">R2018-1149</a>	Ballot Measure RETT - Homeless Services	Housing	Support
<a href="#">SO2018-4173</a>	Diverse Bid Incentives	Jobs & Workers Rights	Support
<a href="#">R2016-629</a>	Hearing Minority Recruiting for Clty Contracted Businesses	Jobs & Workers Rights	Support
<a href="#">O2017-4947</a>	Chicago Fair Workweek Ordinance	Jobs & Workers Rights	Support
<a href="#">O2018-5054</a>	\$15 Minimum Wage	Jobs & Workers Rights	Support
<a href="#">O2016-2678</a>	Paid Sick Leave Ordinance	Jobs & Workers Rights	Support
<a href="#">SO2017-3260</a>	Hotel Workers Sexual Harassment Ordinance	Jobs & Workers Rights	Support
<a href="#">SO2018-3286</a>	Office of Labor Standards	Jobs & Workers Rights	Support
<a href="#">R2016-739</a>	Hearings on CTA Minority Recruitment	Jobs & Workers Rights	Support
<a href="#">R2015-692</a>	Moratorium Charter School Expansion	Schools	Support
<a href="#">R2016-21</a>	Call for TIF funding to CPS	Schools	Support
<a href="#">O2016-232</a>	Fair Election Ordinance	Direct Democracy	Support