



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT: LAURIE R GLENN
PHONE: 773.704.7246
EMAIL: lrglenn@thinkincstrategy.com**

**CITY COUNCIL AND COUNTY BOARD COME TOGETHER TO ADDRESS CRISIS OF YOUTH
UNEMPLOYMENT
“Nothing Builds a Future Like a Job”**

WHAT: Alderman Patrick O'Connor (40th Ward) and Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer (10th District) who chair the Chicago City Council Workforce & Audit Committee and the Cook County Workforce, Housing & Community Development Committee respectively will address in a public hearing the barriers young people face finding a job in Cook County and policy initiatives to improve the outlook for these young people.

The hearing will have testimony from the **Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership** and the **Chicago Department of Family and Support Services**. Participants will discuss the impact of youth unemployment, the advantages of hiring youth for employment, and how to achieve job preparedness through youth employment programs.

The participating organizations are the **Alternative Schools Network, Chicago Urban League, Westside Health Authority, Chicago Area Project, Black United Fund of Illinois, the National Youth Advocate Program, Youth Connection Charter School, La Casa Norte, Lawrence Hall, Mount Sinai Medical Center, Heartland Alliance, and Metropolitan Family Services.**

Thrive Chicago, Emerson Collective, The Cook County Justice Advisory Council and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation will also be on hand to provide testimony concerning youth employment programming.

WHO:

- **Chicago City Council Aldermen and Cook County Commissioners**
- **Teresa Córdova, Director, Great Cities Institute, University of Illinois at Chicago**
- **Karin Norington-Reaves, CEO, Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership**
- **Mary Ellen Messner, Deputy Commissioner, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services**
- **Sandra Abrevaya, President & Chief Impact Officer, Thrive Chicago**
- **Candice Jones, Senior Advisor, Emerson Collective**
- **Rebecca Janowitz, Cook County Justice Advisory Council**
- **Ann Kisting, Executive Director, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation**

WHEN: 10 a.m. – noon, Tuesday, May 16, 2017

**WHERE: Chicago City Council Chambers,
121 N. LaSalle St., 2nd floor, Chicago, IL**

WHY: Nothing builds a future like a job. The disinvestment in youth employment programs at every level of government has fed a crisis that has exacerbated violence in Chicago and across Cook County and is costing taxpayers billions of dollars as young people in low-income neighborhoods find substantial barriers to job hunting, drop out of school and sometimes join gangs as their last resort.

###