



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



October 4, 2021

Dear State's Attorney Foxx:

We write to urge you to reconsider your Office's decision not to bring felony charges in connection with a shootout that happened on Friday, October 2, 2021 at 1244 N. Mason, Chicago in the 25<sup>th</sup> district.

As we understand the facts, members of a gang faction started shooting into single family residence located at the above address in an effort to draw out or injure members of a rival gang faction. We believe that not only POD cameras captured the incident, but a set of uniformed officers in a marked squad car also were on scene within a short period and witnessed much of the activity. At least one of the weapons used by the outside shooters had been converted to a fully automatic weapon.

As a result of the initial burst of gunfire, a shootout ensued. Police evidence technicians identified approximately 70 rounds of shells. Of the three individuals who were shooting into the house, one is deceased and the other two were arrested and were in custody, but were released based upon your Office's decision not to seek charges.

As for the individuals in the House, they initially refused to come out, SWAT was called to the scene. Eventually all of those individuals came out of the house and immediately asserted their 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights and asked for counsel.

From our lay perspective, the individuals who initiated the gunfire are not "mutual combatants" and certainly were not firing in self-defense. As a result, we simply do not understand the decision not to seek felony charges, like attempted murder, against the remaining two offenders who initiated the gun fight.

With due respect, we do not understand and simply cannot support this decision not to bring charges. Giving these kinds of violent offenders a pass when their crime is fully captured on video and with police on the scene is simply unacceptable. What can we tell the residents of this community about the legitimacy of the criminal justice system? And this kind of brazen violence must be met with a swift and certain accountability through felony charges. Anything short of that invites more lawlessness and more brazenness which too many communities are experiencing in this time.

Also, it is important to note that not only do we not support this decision, neither the Superintendent nor the Chief of Detectives supports this decision.

In addition, we ask that the conduct of the individuals in the house be given specific scrutiny. We are informed that even though it was clear that they had fired upon and killed



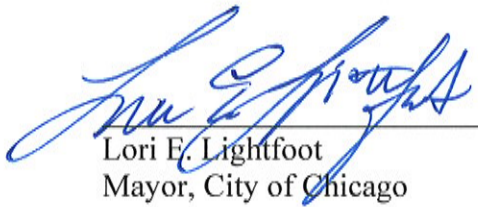
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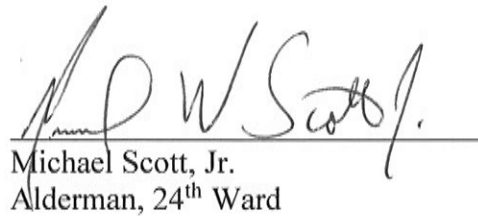
one of the individuals in the street, in the time that they refused to leave the house, necessitating a call to SWAT, they were able to get rid of all of their guns, and clean up any other evidence in the house of their roles in the gun fit. Several gun cases were found, but no weapons. This fact alone warrants further investigation and the Police Department will continue that important work, but your Office needs to work with the police on this matter as well.

For all of these reasons, we ask you to reconsider bringing charges against the remaining two individuals who initiated the gunfire.

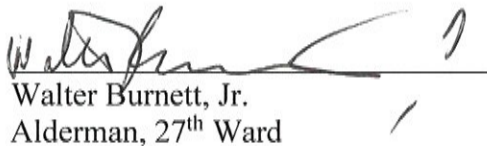
Sincerely,



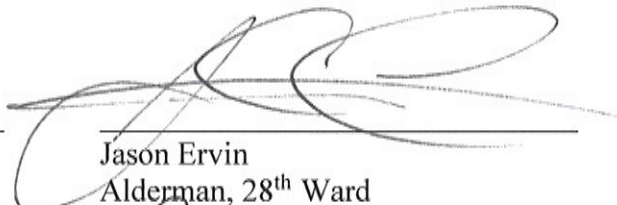
Lori E. Lightfoot  
Mayor, City of Chicago




Michael Scott, Jr.  
Alderman, 24<sup>th</sup> Ward



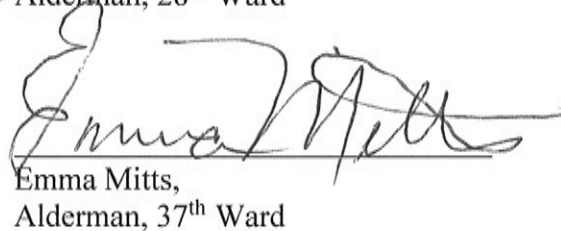
Walter Burnett, Jr.  
Alderman, 27<sup>th</sup> Ward



Jason Ervin  
Alderman, 28<sup>th</sup> Ward



Christopher Taliaferro  
Alderman, 29<sup>th</sup> Ward



Emma Mitts,  
Alderman, 37<sup>th</sup> Ward