

NEW ITEMS AGENDA

**Meeting of the Cook County Board of Commissioners
County Board Room, County Building
Wednesday, January 16, 2013 11:00 A.M.
Issued: Monday, January 14, 2013

COMMISSIONERS

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NEW ITEM #1

Submitting a Proposed Resolution sponsored by

TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, and JESUS G. GARCIA, EDWIN REYES, ROBERT B. STEELE,
and LARRY SUFFREDIN, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**URGING THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT LEGISLATION BANNING
ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES,
REQUIRING REGISTRATION OF EXISTING FIREARMS, AND
CLOSING THE GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE**

WHEREAS, according to the Medical Examiner, 634 people were murdered in Cook County in 2012, and 535 of these deaths were the result of gunshot wounds; and

WHEREAS, we have not seen such a high rate of homicides since 2008; and

WHEREAS, Chicago's current murder rate is reportedly triple that of New York and double Los Angeles' rate; and

WHEREAS, gun violence spiked despite an increase in police resources in some of the most dangerous neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, multiple factors contributed to this spike in gun violence, including but not limited to record unemployment and unseasonably high temperatures, but the proliferation of guns on Chicago streets is a significant factor that cannot be ignored; and

WHEREAS, a study by the University of Chicago Crime Lab from October 2012 revealed that Cook County is the largest supplier of guns in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Cook County passed an assault weapons ban in 2006 and has taken additional measures to curb gun violence since then including a new gun tax and the establishment of an Anti-Violence Advisory Committee that is charged with assisting in the creation of a gun court and disbursing funds among anti-violence programs, provided that a certain sum will be reserved for anti-straw purchaser education and enforcement; and

COMMISSIONERS continued

NEW ITEM #1 cont'd

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the success of local efforts to curb gun violence and make Cook County a safer place for all residents, state-wide legislation that is consistent with existing policies is necessary; and

WHEREAS, by passing such legislation, Illinois will join other states who have enacted reasonable gun laws banning assault weapons, including California, Connecticut, and New York; and

WHEREAS, the urgency and the seriousness of this issue cannot be overstated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Board of Commissioners of Cook County hereby urges the Illinois General Assembly to adopt legislation banning assault weapons, high capacity magazines, requiring registration of existing firearms, and closing the gun show loophole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to the Illinois General Assembly in hopes of the prompt passage of this legislation.