



## **MEDIA**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Preckwinkle Breaks 12-year Silence on Cook County Crime, Comes Too Late**

**COOK COUNTY (June 3, 2022)** | The call for gun control in Illinois is growing loud.

As you know – Cook County has seen an increase in violence in the past few weeks.

In the week following a mass shooting where 19 school children and two teachers were killed in Uvalde, Texas, four people were killed at a Tulsa, Oklahoma, hospital, and ten were killed at a buffalo, New York, supermarket, a violent weekend kicked off the unofficial start of summer in Chicago. [It was one of the most violent Memorial Day weekends we've had in recent years](#), according to news reports.

Chicago officials reported more than 50 people shot over the Memorial Day weekend, including nine people who were killed. Both those totals were well above the 2021 totals.

For her part -- Preckwinkle talks about plans to expand a program at Comer Children's Hospital that helps victims of gun violence deal with trauma.

While addressing the press, Thursday, Preckwinkle said, "The goal of today's event is to talk about ways to address gun violence. Which as they pointed out, has become a local and national problem."

Boykin says "talk" not enough. The fact that rising crime and increasing violence needs to be "pointed out" to Preckwinkle is unacceptable. For too many Cook County residents, the threat of gun violence, carjacking or retail theft is all too vivid and close to home. They've seen the lives of family members and neighbors cut short by a bullet or their stores ransacked by smash and grab mobs. For these residents, hopes for a better tomorrow are impaired because the reign of terror and anarchy seem unlikely to end," Boykin said.

According to new data from the Chicago Police Department, there have been 239 homicides and 971 shootings in the city this year through the end of May, with 60 homicides reported in May 2022. There has been a total of 1,184 people shot this year.

In the Lawndale community alone, five people were wounded after gunmen opened fire on a crowd marking the anniversary of another teen's killing. A 16-year-old girl was among the wounded in the shooting early Sunday morning in the 800 block of South Karlov Avenue. Shell casings and at least 97 evidence markers could be seen in the street outside Daniel Webster Elementary School.

Later Sunday, a man was killed, and four others wounded, including a gunman, during a domestic incident in Humboldt Park. The shooting led to a standoff with a police SWAT team. A gunman, 23, was arrested over an hour later and treated for a gunshot wound, police said.

"We must protect the public by using all effective crime reducing strategies possible. We must push for legislation at the Federal and State levels that will require potential firearm owners to pass rigorous background checks, go after straw purchases, and mandate gun safety training and eliminate dangerous accessories, such as bump stocks. We must strengthen the ability of our law enforcement agencies to responsibly monitor and track perpetrators of crime. And we must prosecute those who break the laws, including for retail theft," said Boykin

Law enforcement cannot do it alone, he added. "Our governments at all levels must work with the appropriate parties to establish universal protocols for intercepting threats. We must invest in new technologies that promote gun and vehicle safety in order to ensure domestic tranquility," Boykin said.

Boykin's goal is to make Cook County safe for all communities by changing the norms and motivations that lead people to commit acts of gun violence, hijack cars, and steal from retailers. We can meet the challenge by pursuing four strategies: prevention, deterrence, technological and interdiction.

- Prevention strategies address root causes of violent behavior and provide positive life alternatives.
- Deterrence strategies make clear that consequences for crime will be swift, certain, and proportional.

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- Technological strategies invest in new technologies that promote safety, and
- Interdiction strategies remove as many dangerous firearms from circulation as possible.

“We have a public safety crisis in Cook County. It is the responsibility and obligation of the government to ensure that the lives of our children, families and communities are safe. The current government of Cook County has failed to keep us safe,” Boykin said.

As President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Boykin promises to put my heart and soul into making Cook County safe for all residents.

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