

THE CHICAGO GANG DATABASE

The Chicago Gang Database Impacts Chicago's Black and Latino population disproportionately, with potentially devastating consequences, no transparency, and no checks and balances.

- The Office of Inspector General (OIG) announced an evaluation of the Chicago Police Department's Gang-related designations and tracking, stating that "the gang database has prompted public concern regarding the potential for significantly adverse impacts on those designated as 'gang affiliated.'" They expect the evaluation to conclude in the Spring of 2019.
- There are an estimated 195,000 individuals in CPD's gang database, and 95% of those individuals are Black or Latino. The numbers suggest that about 11% of Chicago's total Black population, 4% of the Latino population, and just 0.6% of the white population is in the gang database.
- CPD shares information in its gang database with other law enforcement agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, which houses Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). This can adversely affect employment, housing, bail/bond and parole decisions, and lead to false arrest, deportation, and other life devastating consequences.
- The lack of notification, judicial process, or opportunity for self-defense and review, create an environment ripe for civil rights violations and abuse of power. Individuals are never notified whether their names have been placed in the Chicago Gang Database and therefore never have an opportunity to challenge the charges or provide evidence in their defense.

A diverse coalition of organizations representing Black and Latino, as well as immigrant and U.S.-born people, is proposing to include the following in an ordinance:

1. Temporary Cessation of Designations and Information Sharing: Stop temporarily the designation of individuals as gang members and the sharing of this information with third-parties.
2. Provide notice to every individual who is currently or who has within the last 20 years been designated a gang member in one or more of CPD's databases. The notice should include information about how and why the individual was designated a gang member, the name of the officer who made the initial designation, who has had access to the information, and when the last time the accuracy of the designation was assessed, amongst others.
3. Provide information to the public about the actions that have been taken to comply with the ordinance, including periodic statements with data on who has been designated as gang affiliated.
4. The previous changes should be in place, until the Chicago City Council enact an ordinance that takes into account the findings of the OIG and ensures that: the gang designations have a legitimate law enforcement purpose that outweighs the harm caused to individuals that there are regular audits to the database; that individuals receive notice and an opportunity to challenge their designation; that there is no sharing of gang designations with any third party; and that CPD's gang designations are free from racial discrimination.

For more information visit www.erasethedatabase.com, or contact tania@mijente.net