

Truth in Testimony Disclosure Form

In accordance with Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)* of the *Rules of the House of Representatives*, witnesses are asked to disclose the following information. Please complete this form electronically by filling in the provided blanks.

Committee: Oversight and Accountability

Subcommittee: _____

Hearing Date: 03/05/2025

Hearing Title :

A Hearing with Sanctuary City Mayors

Witness Name: The Honorable Brandon Johnson

Position/Title: Mayor of the City of Chicago

Witness Type: Governmental Non-governmental

Are you representing yourself or an organization? Self Organization

If you are representing an organization, please list what entity or entities you are representing:

The City of Chicago; The City of Chicago Office of the Mayor

FOR WITNESSES APPEARING IN A NON-GOVERNMENTAL CAPACITY

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

Are you a fiduciary—including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent—of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing? If so, please list the name of the organization(s) or entities.

Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the hearing's subject matter that you or the organization(s) you represent have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

Please list any contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government and related to the hearing's subject that you or the organization(s) you represent have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

- I have attached a written statement of proposed testimony.
- I have attached my curriculum vitae or biography.

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5), of the U.S. House of Representatives provides:

(5)(A) Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof.

(B) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include— (i) a curriculum vitae; (ii) a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (iii) a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing.

(C) The disclosure referred to in subdivision (B)(ii) shall include— (i) the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (ii) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

(D) Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.

False Statements Certification

Knowingly providing material false information to this committee/subcommittee, or knowingly concealing material information from this committee/subcommittee, is a crime (18 U.S.C. § 1001). This form will be made part of the hearing record.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "E. J. [unclear]", written over a horizontal line.

Witness signature

3.3.25

Date

Attachment A

Statement of

The Honorable Brandon Johnson
Mayor of the City of Chicago

before the

Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
March 5, 2025

Statement of

The Honorable Brandon Johnson
Mayor of the City of Chicago

before the

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives

March 5, 2025

I have the great privilege and honor of serving as the Mayor of Chicago—the third largest city in the Nation and one of the most ethnically, racially, and religiously diverse cities in the world. Founded by a Black Haitian man and a Pottawattamie woman, Chicago is and always has been a proud city of immigrants. Generations of new arrivals, including the descendants of the enslaved during the Great Migration, have created a vibrant city where one in five residents is foreign-born and many more belong to immigrant communities. Each day, I wake up to serve every one of Chicago’s 77 unique neighborhoods and those who live in this great City.

When I became Mayor, I committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of all our residents. To that end, my administration has been focused on creating and implementing public safety initiatives that benefit Chicagoans and that protect and support all communities. As a father of three living on the West Side of Chicago, I am as invested as anyone in making our City safer.

The working families of Chicago depend on our administration and the Chicago Police Department to provide a safe and secure city, and I have shown up for them by directing our City’s resources in ways that best achieve those goals.

Public safety is our top priority, and our administration has tackled it head-on. We launched the People’s Plan for Community Safety, a community-led initiative to address historic disinvestment and to work toward healing our communities. A key part of this plan involves building trust between Chicagoans and law enforcement by prioritizing transparency and expanding violence intervention. When I became Mayor, I saw a clear need to address the rising number of robberies. To reverse that trend, I directed the Chicago Police Department to establish a Robbery Task Force, with leaders from multiple police bureaus working together to apprehend offenders. Since that task force was launched last year, robberies have dropped by 25%

citywide. Because we understand that accountability helps reduce crime, we have hired and promoted over 200 detectives, and that increased our crime-clearance rates. And we have invested in equipment and technology—including the first upgrade of police helicopters in nearly two decades—so that Chicago police officers have the tools they need to effectively prevent and fight crime.

Effective crime-fighting also requires addressing the root causes of violence. We have made key investments in that effort, too: increasing access to safe and stable housing by adding almost 4,000 new units; expanding access to healthcare—especially mental healthcare—by opening three new mental health centers; and focusing on getting people, including our youth, well-paying jobs, with more than a 45% increase in youth summer jobs since I took office.

Chicago is a safer city as a result of these initiatives. The City is also safer because of our Welcoming City Ordinance. That law ensures that the City’s police is focused on the City’s law enforcement priorities. For forty years, Chicago has recognized that our policies toward civil immigration matters contribute to preventing and solving crimes, supporting victims, and maintaining public order. Established in 1985 by Mayor Harold Washington, Chicago’s policy was codified in 2006 and has been a part of the City’s law since then, with broad support from Chicagoans and numerous administrations. In 2018, Bruce Rauner, then the Republican Governor of Illinois, signed the TRUST Act, which, among other things, restricts local officials in Illinois from inquiring about a person’s immigration status.

City leaders have understood that fear of deportation would chill effective law enforcement by causing witnesses and victims to avoid cooperating with police, and that the cooperation of all persons, regardless of their immigration status, is essential to achieving the City’s goals of reducing crime, pursuing justice for victims, and promoting safety for all. Put simply, any actions that amplify fears of deportations make Chicago more dangerous.

As law enforcement leadership in Chicago and other cities will tell you, the principles underlying the Welcoming City Ordinance are as valid today as they have been for the past four decades. The Ordinance enables trusting and supportive relationships between local law enforcement and immigrant communities. When that trust is formed, undocumented immigrants come forward to report crimes to local law enforcement and provide information that helps the police solve those crimes. Law-abiding Chicago residents cooperate with local law enforcement because they do not fear that doing so will result in deportation or other negative

immigration consequences for them or their families. And that in turn promotes everyone's safety and brings criminals to justice. This is the key purpose of the Welcoming City Ordinance and similar legislation elsewhere, and it is why leaders of the Chicago Police Department have long supported this policy.

I know that there are myths about laws like ours—that they obstruct federal law or encourage the harboring of criminals. And I am sure we will hear many other mischaracterizations. But we must not let fearmongering obscure the overall trends. Every crime is tragic, but scapegoating entire communities is misleading, unjust, and beneath this body.

Neither the Welcoming City Ordinance nor any of our laws or policies prevent cooperation in criminal law enforcement. Chicago's law enforcement works tirelessly to investigate crime and bring perpetrators—regardless of their immigration status—to justice. They often do so in partnership with federal law enforcement. The Chicago Police Department regularly works with federal authorities on initiatives to get guns off our streets, to disrupt drug trafficking, and to prevent violent crime. Chicago police do not “harbor” criminals; we arrest them, often as a result of laws that allow all residents to feel safe in aiding the police.

Nor does the Welcoming City Ordinance impede or obstruct the federal government's civil immigration enforcement efforts. In Chicago, we follow all laws—federal state, and local. The Ordinance ensures that Chicago's law enforcement resources are devoted to City priorities, especially public safety. The law recognizes that we cannot fight crime effectively without the trust and cooperation of our immigrant communities. We have followed that approach for decades, and we will not abandon our laws now, especially in the face of gross mischaracterizations and disinformation.

The challenges that Chicago confronts are not unique, nor are they theoretical. Because of the efforts by others to politicize our Nation's immigration issues, we faced a crisis when I first arrived in office. Over 50,000 asylum seekers arrived in Chicago without coordination or care, with no thought for the humanity of those impacted, and without food, a place to go, or clothes to weather a Chicago winter. It was immediately apparent that the situation was not just a humanitarian issue, but one that would quickly become a public safety crisis if we did not find the means to provide for the basic needs of these individuals, thousands of whom were sheltering in police district stations and at our City's airports.

Many of those new arrivals were sent to Chicago for reasons that were performative rather than practical. But creating a problem and then complaining about it is not governing; it is grandstanding. We responded to those cruel stunts in a way that protected our residents and adhered to Chicago's values. We provided basic necessities to the best of our abilities, including food, temporary emergency shelter, and urgent medical care. And in the interest of public safety, my administration was the first to implement a bus safety ordinance that allowed us to manage orderly and safe intake of new arrivals to Chicago.

I recognize the public safety challenges that face Chicago, and the ongoing need to ensure a safe environment for all Chicagoans, one in which working people can thrive. We have more work to do, but we have made great strides. Violent crime is down in Chicago, and the City ended 2024 with its lowest homicide rate in five years. Our efforts to improve public safety by building trust with our communities, instead of by having Chicago police officers double as federal agents, are working.

I am proud to show up for Chicago and our residents to explain to this Committee what we are doing to keep our communities safe, and why the City's policies, adopted by local elected leaders, further those goals.

We also need Congress to do its part. That means Congress should pass long-overdue, comprehensive immigration reform. Congress should also support the programs that we know can help address the root causes of violence. I look forward to working with Congress and any willing partners in federal, state, and local governments on these important issues.

Attachment B

Curriculum Vitae of
The Honorable Brandon Johnson
Mayor of the City of Chicago

March 5, 2025

Brandon Johnson

Mayor

City of Chicago

May 2023 - Present 1 year 11 months

The mayor of Chicago is the chief executive of city government. I am responsible for the administration and management of our City departments, I make proposals and recommendations to the Chicago City Council, I enforce the city's ordinances, I submit the city's annual budget, and I appoint city officials for our departments, commissions and boards.

Commissioner, 1st District

Cook County Government

Dec 2018 - May 2023 4 years 6 months

Chicago, Illinois

Cook County Commissioners are elected officials who oversee County activities and work to ensure that citizen concerns are met, federal and state requirements are fulfilled, and county operations run smoothly. Each of the 17 districts represent roughly 300,000 constituents.

Cook County's 1st District serves parts of Chicago's West Side and parts of Oak Park and Proviso Townships, two west suburbs of Chicago.

Teacher

Chicago Public Schools

Aug 2007 - Jun 2018 10 years 11 months

Chicago, Illinois, United States

For 11 years, I taught Reading and Social Studies on the West Side; first, at Jenner Elementary School in Cabrini-Green from 2007 to 2010, then Westinghouse College Prep in East Garfield Park from 2010 to 2018.

In 2011, I began organizing with the Chicago Teacher's Union. Our historic 2012 teacher's strike set a national precedent for bargaining for the common good, in which our contract negotiations included demands to uplift the communities within and around our schools.

Chief of Staff, 78th District
Illinois House of Representatives

Jan 2005 - Aug 2007 2 years 8 months

Oak Park, Illinois

Served as the Chief of Staff for Illinois State Representative Deborah L. Graham, representing the 78th District.

The Illinois House of Representatives is the lower house of the Illinois General Assembly. Illinois has 59 House Districts, each of which is divided in half to be served by individual Representatives with 2-year terms. Representatives pass bills, come up with a state budget, act on federal constitutional amendments, and propose constitutional amendments to the state constitution.

Illinois's 78th House District serves Chicago's Austin neighborhood and parts of Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Oak Park, and River Grove, four west suburbs of Chicago.

Director of Constituent Services, 39th District
Illinois Senate

Jan 2003 - Dec 2004 2 years

Oak Park, Illinois

Served as the Constituent Services Director for Illinois State Senator Don Harmon, representing the 39th District.

The Illinois Senate is the upper house of the Illinois General Assembly. Illinois has 59 House Districts, each of which is served by individual Senators with four-year and two-year terms. Senators pass bills into law, approve the state budget, confirm appointments to state departments and agencies, act on federal constitutional amendments, and propose constitutional amendments for Illinois.

Illinois's 78th Senate District serves Chicago's Austin neighborhood and several west suburbs: Oak Park, Addison, Bensenville, Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Melrose Park, Northlake, River Grove, Rosemont, Schiller Park, and Stone Park.

Education

Aurora University

Master of Arts - MA Teaching

2004 - 2007

Aurora University

Bachelor of Arts - BA Human Services, Youth Development Programming and Management

2000 - 2004