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Re. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. and Cook County Comm. Richard Boykin to layout steps to curb violence

Chicago -- Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. and Cook County Comm. Richard Boykin are holding a press conference 1 p.m. Tuesday, February 7th, at the Austin Town Hall, 5610 West Lake St, to offer a series of steps on how the federal, state and city governments should respond to the crisis of violence and poverty in Chicago and urban America.

“Chicago is the epicenter of the urban crisis,” Rev. Jackson said. “But Chicago can become a model for urban reinvestment, reconstruction and redemption given the resources and the political will.”

Austin was chosen as the site of the press conference because it represents “ground zero” for gun violence, according to Comm. Boykin. Austin is one of nine “endangered communities” sited by Boykin in a report where unemployment is above 20 percent. The unemployment rate in Austin is 21 percent and 40 percent of the residents live below the poverty line. In 2016, there were 445 shootings in Austin and nearly 100 homicides.

“Austin has become ground zero of gun violence in Chicago and the residents are pleading for help. They know the problems facing their communities,” said Comm. Boykin. “They just need leaders to step up and work on their behalf. We need to take steps to ensure Chicago becomes a model of a city turning around its issues rather than one that simply accepts the status quo as its people suffer genocide.”

Rev. Jackson will be joined by Aldermen Emma Mitts (37th) and Christopher Taliaferro (29th) along with several West Side ministers including Pastor Ira Acree and Rev. Dr. Marshall Hatch.

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Rainbow PUSH Coalition is a multi-racial, multi-issue, progressive, international organization that was formed in December 1996 by the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. through merging of two organizations he founded Operation PUSH People United to Serve Humanity (estab. 1971) and the Rainbow Coalition (estab. 1984). With headquarters in Chicago and offices in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York and Oakland, the organization works to make the American Dream a reality for all citizens while advocating for peace and justice around the world. RPC is dedicated to improving the lives of all people by serving as a voice for the voiceless. Its mission is to protect, defend and gain civil rights by

leveling the economic and educational playing fields while promoting peace and justice around the world.

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Keep up with Rev. Jackson and the work of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition at www.rainbowpush.org.