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**** Alderman ****
Michele Smith
 Chicago's 43rd Ward



Guns and Ethics

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18th District Beat Mtgs Next Month

If you live SOUTH of Fullerton Ave., join your neighbors at CAPS meetings the second week in March. Discuss current crime trends and share ideas for problem-solving in your community. Questions? Call the 18th District Office at 312-744-5778.

Click here to see your beat

Beats

*1821/1822/1823/1824
 Tuesday, March 14
 7:00pm - 8:30pm
 St. Paul's Church
 1301 N. LaSalle Drive*

Beats

*1811/1812/1813/1814
 Thursday, March 16
 Old Town Triangle
 Center
 1765 N North Park Ave.
 7:00pm-8:30pm*

**Earn Your Stripes-
 Volunteer at Lincoln**

Dear Friends,

As I wrote in a [previous newsletter](#), gun control is critical to fight violence in our city. New [amendments](#) to our city code, which [passed](#) at last week's City Council meeting, expand reporting requirements for firearms, increase penalties for failure to report as required, and increase penalties for other types of firearms-related violations, such as possession of an unregistered gun. Police Superintendent McCarthy believes that these changes are important tools in the fight against gun violence.

But we need changes in both state and federal law to get the job done.

Tomorrow, Friday, February 22, there are two things you can do to show your support for better gun laws. First, you can attend the upcoming [public hearings](#) sponsored by the Illinois Judiciary Committee. Testify to the committee about why we need to take real measures to protect ourselves from gun violence.

***Public Hearings on Proposed State Gun Legislation
 Friday, February 22nd
 10:00am
 Michael A. Bilandic Building, 6th Floor
 160 N. LaSalle***

Second, attend the [rally](#) led by Organizing for Action, President Obama's grass roots movement to call for universal background checks. The rally is at **3PM in Federal Plaza at Dearborn and Adams.**

Finally, you must listen to This American Life's recent [series](#) on the violence-plagued Harper High School in Englewood to understand the conditions some of our neighborhoods are suffering.

Ethics Reform

Park Zoo!

Volunteers play an important role at the zoo. They educate the public about wildlife, direct visitors, assist with special events and help maintain our beautiful landscape. Whatever your interest, Lincoln Park Zoo has an exciting opportunity for you! Make a difference and help connect people to nature at Chicago's free zoo. Click here to learn more and apply. Questions? e-mail volunteer@lpzoo.org.

Give to the Lincoln Park Community Shelter

Starting February 8th at midnight and going through midnight of February 22nd, Lincoln Park stores on Clark Street, between Fullerton and Diversey, such as Lincoln Park Market, Caribou Coffee, For Your Eyes and many more are collecting donations of food and toiletries for the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. Click here for a list of participating stores and suggestions of items to be donated.



43rd Ward Office
2523 N. Halsted
www.ward43.org

Office Hours:
Monday
9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday
9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday
9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Since taking office, I have supported the Mayor in strengthening ethics rules. The most recent [ethics reform ordinance](#), which I supported, clarified the roles of the Inspector General, Legislative Inspector General and the Ethics Board. These were needed reforms because they will strengthen the ability to investigate and prosecute ethics violations. However, the central proposed reform had to be weakened before most of my colleagues would agree to vote for it.

While ethics complaints can be filed against other City of Chicago employees anonymously, complaints against an alderman require a sworn statement. This standard is out of step with prevailing ethics laws. I supported the proposed law, which would have allowed anonymous complaints. As reported on [WTTW](#), I believe that the Legislative Inspector General is more than qualified to separate blatant lies from legitimate accusations. Unfortunately, the vast majority of my colleagues disagreed.

Ultimately, the proposed Ethics Ordinance was amended to keep the previous standard. While I am disappointed in this watered down ethics reform, I will continue to support stronger measures in the future.

Important Brown Line Reroutes Due to Wells Street Bridge Reconstruction

The Chicago Department of Transportation will temporarily cease train service on the Wells Street Bridge for two 9-day periods from **Friday evening, March 1 until Monday morning, March 11**; and again from **Friday evening, April 26 until Monday morning, May 6** while CDOT and CTA complete necessary repairs and improvements to the Wells Street Bridge.

Here are some ways that your commute will be affected:

- Brown line trains will only operate between Kimball and Merchandise Mart
- Service will be substantially reduced during rush periods
- During rush periods, some trains will be rerouted into the Red Line subway after Fullerton until Roosevelt.
- Purple Line Express service will be suspended

To compensate for this inconvenience there will be:

- Free shuttles will connect Brown Line riders from

Contact us:
phone
773-348-9500
email
yourvoice@ward43.org

Chicago and Merchandise to the Loop at Washington/Wells or Clark/Lake during all normal operating hours

- A Loop Shuttle Train will stop at all Brown Line Loop stations
- Extra service added to #37 Sedgwick bus and a variant #37 A Sedgwick bus will operate at peak hours in the morning

Click [here](#) for the complete list of how CTA will be affected.

Sincerely,

43rd Ward Alderman Michele Smith

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