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FOIA Officer
Office of the Mayor, City of Chicago
City Hall – 121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 507
Chicago, IL 60602

Subject: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request – Data on Chicago’s Sanctuary City Policy and Public Safety

Dear FOIA Officer:

Requested Records:

Specifically, for each calendar year from 2023 through the present (or the most recent year available), please provide records (such as statistical reports, data compilations, spreadsheets, or analyses) sufficient to show the following information for the City of Chicago:

1. Arrests of suspects who are Illegal Aliens: The number of individuals without lawful immigration status (“illegal aliens”) arrested within Chicago in each year from 2023 to present. Please provide a breakdown of these arrests by offense category as defined in the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, including:

* Violent Crimes: e.g., murder and non-negligent manslaughter; rape (including both the legacy definition and the revised UCR definition adopted in 2013); robbery; and aggravated assault.

* Property Crimes: e.g., burglary; larceny-theft (including retail theft/shoplifting incidents); motor vehicle theft; and arson.

* Other Offenses (UCR Part II/NIBRS categories): e.g., simple assault; forgery and counterfeiting; fraud; embezzlement; buying/receiving/possessing stolen property; vandalism; weapons offenses (such as illegal possession or trafficking of firearms); prostitution and commercialized vice; other sex offenses; drug abuse violations (including possession and distribution, with breakdown by drug type if available – e.g., heroin, methamphetamine, etc.); gambling; offenses against family and children; driving under the influence (DUI); liquor law

violations; public drunkenness; disorderly conduct; vagrancy; curfew and loitering violations; and runaways.

2. Pre-Trial Release: The percentage (or number) of the arrested illegal aliens identified in item 1 who were released from custody prior to trial in each year in Chicago (for example, released on their own recognizance, on bond or bail, or under other non-custodial conditions).

3. Recidivism Rate: Among those individuals released pre-trial such as the number or percentage of such released individuals who were subsequently re-arrested for new offenses while awaiting trial.

4. Victims Injured: The number of people who sustained injuries as a result of crimes committed by illegal alien offenders in Chicago in each year. If recorded, please break this down by offense type within violent crimes (for example, how many aggravated assault victims were injured by illegal alien offenders, how many robbery or rape victims were injured by such offenders, etc.)

5. Victims Killed: The number of people who were killed as a result of crimes committed by illegal alien offenders in Chicago in each year. This should include the number of victims of homicide offenses (murder and non-negligent manslaughter) perpetrated by illegal alien offenders, as well as any other deaths attributable to crimes committed by such individuals (for instance, fatalities resulting from DUI incidents, aggravated assaults resulting in death, or other relevant criminal incidents involving illegal alien offenders).

6. Victim Economic Losses: The estimated economic losses to victims of crimes committed by illegal alien offenders in Chicago for each year. This should include, wherever available, aggregate estimates of financial costs borne by victims – for example, medical and hospital expenses, lost wages or income, and funeral or burial costs resulting from violent crimes by illegal aliens – as well as the total value of property loss or damage suffered by victims of property crimes committed by illegal aliens.

7. Property Damage: The total dollar value of property damage caused by crimes committed by illegal alien offenders in Chicago for each year. (For example, the value of property vandalized, property destroyed by arson, or other property damage resulting from crimes by such offenders.)

8. Motor Vehicle Thefts: The number of motor vehicles stolen by illegal alien offenders in Chicago in each year, and the estimated total dollar value of those stolen vehicles or the losses associated with these motor vehicle thefts for each year.

9. Retail Theft Losses: The total dollar amount of losses from retail theft (e.g., shoplifting, organized retail theft, or other larceny-theft incidents targeting businesses) committed by illegal alien offenders in Chicago for each year.

10. Drug Offenses: The number of drug-related offenses committed by illegal alien offenders in Chicago in each year. This includes offenses involving drug possession, distribution, or trafficking. If available, please provide a breakdown by the type or category of drug involved in these offenses (such as methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, opioids, marijuana, etc.).

11. Weapons Offenses: The number of weapons offenses committed by illegal alien offenders in Chicago in each year (for example, incidents of illegal firearm possession, carrying a weapon without a permit, weapons trafficking, or other violations of weapons laws by such individuals).

12. Sex Offenses: The number of sexual offenses committed by illegal alien offenders in Chicago in each year. Please include, if available, the number of rapes committed by such individuals (distinguishing between the pre-2013 “legacy” definition of rape and the post-2013 revised definition, if the data allows) and the number of other sex offenses (such as sexual assault, molestation, or other forcible or non-forcible sex crimes) committed by such individuals.

13. Clearance Rates: The clearance rates for crimes committed by illegal alien offenders in Chicago in each year – that is, the percentage of those offenses (or the number of offenses) that were cleared by arrest or by exceptional means. For context and comparison, if readily available, please also provide the overall clearance rates for the same categories of offenses in Chicago (regardless of offender immigration status) for each year, so that the clearance rate for crimes by illegal aliens can be compared to the general clearance rate in the city.

14. Repeat Offenders and Prior Deportations: Any data indicating the prevalence of repeat offenders among the illegal alien offender population in Chicago. For each year (or aggregated over the period, if yearly data is not available), please provide the number of illegal alien offenders who had prior criminal arrests or convictions. Additionally, please provide the number of those offenders who had previously been deported or were known to federal immigration authorities (e.g., were subject to prior immigration enforcement actions or ICE detainers) before the offense in question. This includes any records or statistics on criminal recidivism and prior deportation status among illegal alien offenders in Chicago.

15. Law Enforcement and Incarceration Costs: Records or analyses that evaluate or estimate the costs imposed on law enforcement, judicial, or correctional systems in Chicago as a result of crimes committed by illegal alien offenders. This may include, for example, any available estimates (on an annual basis from 2020 to present) of the costs of police investigations, criminal prosecutions, public defense, or incarceration/detention related to these offenders.

16. Law Enforcement Performance Impact: Records or analyses that evaluate whether crimes committed by illegal alien offenders have impacted Chicago law enforcement performance or resources. For instance, this could include any assessments of increased 911 response times, or reductions in manpower available for patrol, case investigation, and community policing, attributable to the time and resources required to address crimes involving illegal alien offenders.

17. Hate Crime Offenders: The number of hate crime incidents in Chicago in each year (2020–present) in which the identified offender was an illegal alien. If data is available, please provide the nature of the hate crime (e.g., the bias motivation category) for each such incident and clarify whether these incidents were classified as hate crimes under federal or Illinois reporting standards.

18. Sanctuary vs. Non-Sanctuary Comparisons: Any records containing comparative statistics or analysis of crime rates or other public safety indicators in Chicago (as a sanctuary jurisdiction)

versus comparable non-sanctuary jurisdictions. In particular, this includes any data or reports showing differences in the incidence of crimes committed by undocumented/illegal immigrants, or differences in overall violent or property crime rates, that the Mayor's Office may have compiled, received, or consulted in order to compare Chicago's sanctuary city policy outcomes with those of jurisdictions that do not have sanctuary policies (for the time frame covered by this request).

19. Public Safety Impact Evaluations (Sanctuary Policy): Any records – such as internal reports, studies, memoranda, presentations, or official communications – from 2020 to present that evaluate or discuss the impact of Chicago's sanctuary city ("Welcoming City") policy on public safety or crime. This includes any analyses, data compilations, or evidence that were used in formulating or supporting public statements by the Mayor or other city officials asserting that Chicago's sanctuary city status has no adverse effect on public safety (i.e. that there is "no public safety downside" to being a sanctuary city).

The purpose of this request is to obtain information that can shed light on the public safety implications of Chicago's sanctuary city policies by documenting crimes, outcomes, and costs associated with illegal alien offenders in the city. Chicago's leaders have taken the position that the City's sanctuary status does not compromise public safety; this request seeks to gather the data underlying or relevant to that position. We believe that the City of Chicago – through the Mayor's Office, the Chicago Police Department (CPD), or other relevant agencies – may have access to or have compiled the requested statistics and analyses. If certain portions of the requested information are maintained by another city department or agency (for example, CPD, the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications, or Cook County agencies handling detention/prosecution), please consider this a request for such records as well, or kindly advise and assist in directing this request to the appropriate entity in accordance with Illinois FOIA.

Fee Waiver Request: As this request is made on behalf of the National Police Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public on law enforcement and public safety issues, we respectfully request a waiver of any applicable fees for searching, reviewing, or copying the records. This request is in the public interest and is not being made for commercial purposes. The information sought will contribute significantly to public understanding of the impact of Chicago's sanctuary city policies on public safety (including crime rates, victimization, and economic costs) and will be used to inform public discourse on this important issue. Disclosure of the requested records will help inform the public about how local law enforcement and community safety may be affected by city policies that limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities – a matter of considerable public debate and concern. We believe that a fee waiver is justified under the public-interest provisions of the Illinois FOIA (see 5 ILCS 140/6(c)).

Request for Expedited Processing: We additionally request expedited processing of this FOIA request, to the extent allowable. There is a compelling urgency to inform the public about the public safety implications of Chicago's sanctuary city policy – an issue that relates directly to government policy and the safety of the community – and the National Police Association is primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public on these matters. The subject of

crimes by undocumented immigrants and the consequences of limiting cooperation between local and federal authorities is the focus of active public debate and heightened media attention at this time. Prompt disclosure of the requested information will therefore enable timely and meaningful public discussion and evaluation of Chicago's policies. I certify that the information provided above concerning the need for expedited processing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. (I am aware that under Illinois FOIA, the City generally must respond within 5 business days; given the public importance of this request, We ask that it be processed as quickly as practicable, with no unwarranted extensions.)

If you determine that any portion of the requested material is exempt from disclosure, please release any reasonably segregable portions that are not exempt. For any documents or portions of documents that are withheld, please provide an indexing (such as a Vaughn index) or a description of the withheld records and the specific legal justification (statutory exemption) for each withholding.

We request that all records responsive to this request be provided in electronic format if possible (for example, as Excel or CSV data files, or PDF documents), and transmitted via email (or provided via a downloadable link).