



## Chicago Police Accountability Task Force Presentation by Michael J. Harrington/Network 49 - Feb. 25, 2016

I am Michael Harrington of NETWORK 49, an organization of 49th Ward and Rogers Park residents. We are outraged by police violence and racism, official cover-ups, corruption, and lack of professionalism by more than just “a few bad apples.”

### STEERING COMMITTEE

John Baker  
Kevin Brown  
Hank Byrne  
Thom Clark  
Gabe Gonzalez  
Ivan Handler  
Michael J. Harrington  
Katy Hogan  
Michael James  
Christine Johnson  
Ed Mullen  
David Orr  
Rev. Marilyn Pagán-Banks  
Ines Sommer  
Jack Swenson  
Betsy Vandercook  
Jason Weaver

Our police department must be accountable to us, the residents who pay the bills and are the ultimate employer. A strong plan for professionalism, accountability, and public oversight is necessary for a safe and just Chicago.

Here are four of the many key areas of concern:

(1) **MILLIONS FOR WEAPONS:** End reliance on weapons. Tazers kill. They are disproportionately used on children, seniors, and the mentally ill. They won't end police violence. Our \$10 million Taser International contract and millions spent on guns and military gear should instead target human, economic, and community development.

(2) **RECRUITMENT:** We call for deeper background checks; mental health, stress and temperament evaluations; and scrutiny into the racial views of police applicants. Spouses and family of applicants can reveal who is not ready to “serve and protect.”

(3) **TRAINING:** Improve police academy training. Require it for current officers, in particular training on how (a) to de-escalate potentially violent encounters and (b) to reduce use of force.

(4) **ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROFESSIONALISM:** Re-invent community policing and foot patrols. CAPS must include residents from every walk of life, especially youth. However, CAPS and more cops on the street won't work - in fact it will make matters worse - without an expectation of swift repercussions for police misconduct. Adopt and monitor policies for **IMMEDIATE DISCIPLINE, SANCTIONS, FIRING, and CRIMINAL CHARGES FOR CRIMINAL CONDUCT**. Actively involve citizens - the ultimate employer - in scrutinizing police misconduct and strengthen independence from the mayor's office of IPRA or any other oversight body. Thank you.