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Chicago Aldermanic Black Caucus Disapproves of Early Release for Ex-Cop Jason Van Dyke Who Murdered 17-Year Old LaQuan McDonald in 2014

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It is a sad day in history when the justice system releases an offender that deserves the full sentence, especially when it is a police officer who wrongfully killed a 17-year old black teenager by shooting him 16 times. We understand the laws of the justice system, but like many other similar court cases around the country this does not seem fair.

It hits home for all Chicagoans after the case made national news, and the body cam video of LaQuan McDonald's murder by Chicago Police Officer Jason Van Dyke went viral globally. We as Black residents of the City of Chicago felt so much outrage upon hearing of another tragic incident by the hands of the Chicago Police Department.

The life and future of LaQuan McDonald was taken away on October of 2014. In 2018, Jason Van Dyke was found guilty of second-degree murder and 16 counts of aggravated battery. He was sentenced to six years in prison. A little more than three years of his sentence has been served, and now he is eligible for an early release that has been scheduled for this Thursday, February 3, 2022.

It is our job to work with the needs of our communities, and we have been listening to the concerns of all residents pertaining to the precedent that this will create for other police officers that wrongfully kill our youth. This has to stop, and it also plays a significant role in Chicago and America's violence culture. Since 2015, police have killed more than 100 children in America according to ABC News. This is why we have been diligently working on police reform and recently passed the historic civilian oversight committee, in conjunction with making sure the directives of the consent decree are met by the city.

Under title 18 U.S.C., Section 242- Jason Van Dyke can still be federally prosecuted and there is no statute of limitation. We request that the Northern District of Illinois US Attorney Office review and consider this case for evaluation.

We need better laws and legislation in place that protects not only our youth, but all residents in Chicago from regrettable moments of overzealous fear in police officers. It is the responsibility of The City of Chicago, Cook County Criminal Justice System, and the State of Illinois to put improved policies in place that make all constituents safe. Additionally, it is important for us to focus on strengthening our state laws to correct these injustices.

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