

## **RESOLUTION**

### **In Support of New Hearings for Chicago Police Torture Victims Wrongfully Convicted and Incarcerated**

**Sponsored by  
THE HONORABLE EARLEAN COLLINS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is a home rule unit of local government pursuant to Article VII Section 6(a) of the 1970 Illinois Constitution, and as such may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 24, 2002, the Hon. Paul Biebel, Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, appointed Edward J. Egan as Special State's Attorney and Robert D. Boyle as Chief Deputy Special State's Attorney to investigate allegations that former Area 2 Violent Crimes Commander Jon Burge and Chicago Police officers under his command had systematically tortured scores of African American citizens at Area 2 and 3 police headquarters; and

**WHEREAS**, the investigation conducted by special prosecutors Egan and Boyle consumed over four years and cost the tax payers of Cook County \$7 million dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, Egan and Boyle acknowledged at the conclusion of their investigation that there was evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that certain individuals had been abused by Burge and Area 2 detectives under his command and that there was reason to believe that abuse occurred in "many other cases;" and

**WHEREAS**, it has been acknowledged, in opinions of the Illinois Appellate Court, the Illinois Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, the Chicago Police Department's Office of Professional Standards and elsewhere that Burge and his subordinates committed numerous acts of torture against African American men at Area 2 and 3 Police headquarters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Report of The Special State's Attorney states that the acts of abuse committed by Burge and detectives under his command included electrically shocking individuals on their genitals, lips and ears with an electric shock box or cattle prod; suffocating individuals with plastic bags; subjecting individuals to mock execution with guns; physical beatings with telephone books and rubber hoses; and other forms of physical and psychological abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, Burge and his men committed these acts of abuse to extract confessions from the victims which were subsequently admitted as evidence against them in their criminal prosecutions resulting in their convictions; and

**WHEREAS**, at least twenty-six African American men remain behind bars as a direct result of convictions which were based in whole or in part on their confessions that were allegedly elicited by abuse committed by Burge and his men; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of physical force to gain a confession as well as the admission of such a confession in a criminal court proceeding violates state, federal and international laws, and

**WHEREAS**, the twenty-six victims who remain behind bars are therefore entitled to new hearings to determine if their confessions were coerced by Burge and his men, and, if so, to new trials at which the unlawfully coerced confessions are not used as incriminating evidence against them.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recommends that the Illinois Attorney General initiate new hearings for the twenty-six Chicago Police torture victims who were wrongfully convicted and remain incarcerated in the State of Illinois.

Approved and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**TODD STROGER**, President  
Cook County Board of Commissioners

(SEAL)

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
**DAVID ORR**, County Clerk