

COMMUNITY AND ADVOCACY GROUPS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS CALL FOR JUSTICE FOR DEXTER REED AND AN END TO PRETEXTUAL TRAFFIC STOPS

April 10, 2024

Yesterday we learned details about how Dexter Reed was tragically killed by Chicago Police Department officers during a traffic stop in Humboldt Park. This disturbing death highlights the urgent need to reassess how traffic stops are conducted in Chicago, particularly in communities already experiencing the legacy of failed public policy that has led to over-policing, segregation, and divestment.

Impact for Equity and the Free2Move Coalition's [2023 Traffic Stops Data Report](#) reveals alarming realities about traffic stops: in 2023 Chicago Police Department made over 537,000 traffic stops, with the highest number of them concentrated in the 11th Police District, where this incident occurred. For example, in that Police District, CPD conducted 56,301 stops in 2023, even though only 55,746 drivers live there. Citywide, Black drivers are six times more likely to be stopped compared to their white counterparts, and the vast majority of CPD's traffic stops are for minor traffic violations. Such disparities erode trust between law enforcement and communities of color, fail to keep communities safe, and perpetuate systemic injustices.

Despite their widespread use, the vast majority of CPD's traffic stops do not lead to CPD finding any evidence of criminal activity whatsoever. In 2023 there were no arrests made in over 97% of traffic stops. What's clear is that traffic stops are not an effective tool to stop violence. In fact, traffic stops continue to be the most common event type where an officer points their weapon. Unfortunately, the use of force at a traffic stop happens far too often, and almost all uses of force are against people of color. In 2023, 95% of uses of force at traffic stops were against people of color, and 78% were against Black people.

Impact for Equity and the Free2Move Coalition are working to create a safer, more racially equitable system of traffic safety in Chicago. Over the last year, we have called on Mayor Johnson, Superintendent Snelling, and the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability to adopt [our policy platform](#) and put an end to CPD's practice of making pretextual traffic stops altogether and to limit traffic stops for low-level offenses. If CPD had adopted this policy, this incident may have been prevented. The City of Chicago has the power to end these kinds of traffic stops today. Any delay only continues to put our communities at risk. We deserve swift and transformative policy change now.

This stop should never have happened and there is no justification for the devastating harm that occurred. We extend our condolences to Dexter Reed's family and community for this irreconcilable loss of life. The Reed family is currently fundraising funeral expenses on [GoFundMe](#).

Please read the Free2Move Coalition and Impact for Equity's [joint traffic stop report here](#).

Learn more about Free2Move's [three prong policy platform here](#).

Signatories:

Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago
Active Transportation Alliance
Alderman Daniel La Spata, 1st Ward
Alderwoman Maria Hadden, 49th Ward
Alees Edwards, District Councilor –
11th Police District
Alexander Perez, District Councilor –
2nd Police District
Anthony Bryant, District Councilor –
3rd Police District
Better Streets Chicago
BYP100
Cannabis Equity Illinois Coalition
Chicago Alliance Against Racist and
Political Repression (CAARPR)
Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts
Chicagoland Disabled People of Color
Coalition (Chicagoland DPOCC)
Color of Change
Community Renewal Society
David Orlikoff, District Councilor –
14th Police District
Deondre Rutues, District Councilor –
15th Police District

Elizabeth A. Rochford, District Councilor –
17th Police District
End Permanent Punishments
Erin Vogel, District Councilor –
9th Police District
Equiticity
Equity and Transformation
First Defense Legal Aid
Free2Move Coalition
Good Kids Mad City
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
Impact for Equity
Leonardo Quintero, District Councilor –
12th Police District
Metropolitan Planning Council
Network 49
ONE Northside
Ponchita Moore, District Councilor –
5th Police District
Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)
#StopShotSpotter Coalition
Workers Center for Racial Justice

