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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## STATEMENT OF CVI COMMUNITY ABOUT 2025 DECLINE IN GUN VIOLENCE

The City of Chicago just closed out 2025 with the lowest number of homicides since 1965 and, for the first time in decades, four years in a row of declining gun violence. Chicago's comprehensive approach to addressing gun violence is proving what is possible when communities lead and we address existing threats and root causes simultaneously.

The credit for this historic outcome starts in the community with the individuals at highest risk who are choosing to put down their guns and live more safely. It extends to the extraordinary network of community violence intervention (CVI) organizations we have built over the last decade, our public and private sector partners, including City, County and State governments, philanthropy, business, law enforcement, faith-based and community groups, the healthcare sector, and social service agencies. The benefits, in terms of lives saved, trauma reduced, and justice system costs avoided, are incalculable. We especially thank Chicago, Cook County, and Illinois taxpayers for supporting CVI.

With that being said, there's still much work to be done. We remain far short of our collective goal of becoming the safest big city in America as Chicago continues to experience thousands of shootings each year. Getting there requires sustained commitment to proven approaches: embedding CVI into Chicago's long-term public safety strategy, advancing police reforms and community-based policing practices to rebuild trust and improve police effectiveness, jobs and investment in communities plagued by gun violence, and strengthening the safety net so fewer young people are at-risk.

Finally, we extend our love and appreciation to the victims and survivors of gun violence in our city. Their sacrifice, courage and resilience infuse our work every day with purpose and urgency. In their names, we rededicate ourselves to the vital work of saving lives, building hope and healing communities.

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