

Coalition of Veterans Organizations

**CVO**



*Leave No  
Veteran Behind*

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY  
QUARTERLY  
REPORT**

**Q4 2025**

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**Coalition of Veterans Organizations (CVO)**  
**Public Safety-Fourth Quarterly Report, December 2025**

**Willie Mack, Ph.D., Vice Chair**

**Cook County State's Attorney Office** - Eileen O'Neill Burke, Cook County State's Attorney, welcomed 37 new prosecutors to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO) in November. The addition of these new Assistant State's Attorneys (ASAs) advances her publicly stated goal: rebuilding the ranks of skilled prosecutors throughout the county to seek justice for victims more efficiently. During the past eleven months, Burke has focused on bolstering recruitment for new ASAs and improving the CCSAO training curriculum, so frontline prosecutors are equipped with the best knowledge when they step into the courtroom. Burke utilizes a Veterans Treatment Court to address the root causes of non-violent crimes committed by military veterans. She claims that this program focuses on rehabilitation, offering treatment for mental health and substance abuse, and providing housing support rather than incarceration.

**City of Chicago Mayor's Office**- The Chicago Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs (MOVA) serves the city's more than 77,000 veterans and their families by connecting them with resources, benefits, and support services. Led by Director Kevin Barszcz, the office works to improve veterans' lives and increase housing accessibility. He and his teams visit veteran posts to get the word out. Help for military veterans reduces crime primarily by addressing the root causes of criminal justice involvement such as PTSD and substance abuse. These assistance efforts are intended to drastically reduce recidivism and help veterans reintegrate into society.

***The Chicago Police Department- CPD reported:***

SHOOTINGS – JAN. 1 – DEC. 31 2025: 1,471

SHOOTING VICTIMS – JAN. 1 – DEC. 31 2025: 1,848

MURDERS – JAN. 1 – DEC. 31 2025: 416

**Chicago Westside Branch NAACP**- Carlton T. Mayers II, Esq., a national expert on public safety and policing reform, indicates that a national report card evaluates how states can prevent officers engaged in misconduct from continuing employment through stronger certification and decertification processes. The report card packet underscores that, while criminal and civil accountability are important, they are not sufficient on their own. Decertification offers a more permanent solution to prevent repeat misconduct by revoking a police officer's license to serve.

**UChicago Crime Lab** reported that it celebrated the graduation of two Community Safety Leadership Academies (CSLA) classes: One cohort of police commanders from the Policing Leadership Academy and one cohort of community violence intervention leaders from the CVI Leadership Academy. Also, the University of Chicago Police Department (UCPD) operates an extended patrol area covering Kenwood, Hyde Park, Oakland, and portions of Woodlawn (37th to 65th Streets, Cottage Grove to Lake Shore Drive). It shares data with the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and sends "Security Alerts" for serious and/or violent crimes in the surrounding area.