



Attacking Crime: Hynes Plan on Violence Prevention

Like just about everything else in Illinois, we need a clean start on attacking crime.

There were 31,735 crimes committed in Chicago in just the four weeks between October 5 and November 4 – with most being theft (20%), battery (16%), criminal damage (12%), or narcotics (10 %). Neighborhoods like Englewood, South Austin, Lawndale, Gresham, Logan Square, and South Shore led the list. While there understandably is a lot of attention paid to the crime rates in Chicago, communities all throughout Illinois are trying to deal with violence.

Until recently, Illinois generally and Chicago in particular have been doing well in reducing crime: Not only have violent crime and property crime rates decreased between 1997 and 2007, they have decreased at a greater rate than the national average. According to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and the Center for Research in Law and Justice, from 1997 through 2007, the total reported crime index offense rate decreased 36 percent in Cook County, 34 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County, 19 percent in the Central region, and 13 percent in the Southern region. The violent crime index offense rate decreased 44 percent in Cook County (due to a 48 percent decrease in Chicago), 23 percent in the Northern region outside Cook County, 11 percent in the Southern region, and 4 percent in the Central region. Property crime similarly declined.

But, for whatever reason, our crime problem is now getting worse. Chicago now ranks as the worst city for property crime – and the second worst for violent crime – of America's ten largest cities.

Even more troubling, the biggest crime problem we now face is youth violence. Before 2006, an average of 10-15 Chicago students were fatally shot each year – still too high, but nothing compared to what we have seen in the last two years: 24 fatal shootings in the 2006-07 school year, 23 deaths and 211 shootings in the 2007-08 school year, and 34 deaths and 290 shootings last school year. Then, of course, on September 24 this year, 16-year-old Derrion Albert, an honor roll student, was beaten, kicked and smacked with railroad ties about a half-mile from Fenger High School, which he attended. His tragic death was caught on a cell phone video for the whole world to see. It's time we made ending these tragedies our priority.

We don't know why, all of a sudden crime – and particularly youth violence – are getting worse in Illinois. But Dan knows we have to stop it.

We must help the police, as well as citizens, to fight back. We need to reduce the scourge of substance abuse that fuels so much crime. And we need to focus on youth violence and gang activity – and stop them in their tracks.

But we need to do more. We need to provide more opportunity in every urban neighborhood to end this destructive cycle and show our young people that there is a better way. It's time to give our communities a clean start. Dan will be the governor who does that.

1. Bringing Statewide Planning and Coordination to the Fight against Crime

Fighting crime occurs mostly at the local level. But state government can bring additional resources to bear and provide coordination and planning across jurisdictional lines, across bureaucratic functions – from enforcement to prosecution to corrections – and even across narrow policy areas: Our economic policy choices (raise taxes on the wealthy, not middle class families) and social program decisions (cut bureaucracy, not front line services) all ultimately affect how well our most hard-pressed families are faring and whether youths in inner cities turn to increased violence or more productive outlets.

As Governor, Dan Hynes will work to make sure that Springfield pays attention to what's happening on the streets of Englewood, South Austin, Lawndale, Gresham, Logan Square, and the South Shore, as well as communities all across Illinois that are dealing with crime and violence. He will work with local officials and neighborhood groups to strengthen policing and reduce youth violence. And Dan will start by focusing statewide resources and coordination on intelligent anti-crime strategies, by:

- **Developing a Comprehensive Statewide Public Safety Plan.** This plan would include up-to-date statistics regarding crime in Illinois; annual goals and objectives; and a plan for sharing resources and developing partnerships to achieve those goals and objectives. The state currently does not do as good a job of collecting and reporting crime data as we need. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ILCJIA) and the Center for Research in Law and Justice report only county-level summary data on violent crime, property crime, and drug crimes. As the Chicago Justice Project has written, *“Innovation in our criminal justice policies and practices will only be driven by greatly increased access to information about how the system operates, who operates it, and with whom the system interacts. Each of the levels within the system, police – prosecutors – judicial – incarceration, generates large amounts of data that they hide from public knowledge, restrict access, or do not collect. A reversal of these current practices will dramatically & permanently alter*

the way communities and policy makers think about and participate with the criminal justice system in Chicago and Cook County. Traditional concepts of public accessibility have always been extremely limited in Chicago and Cook County. Requirements for how agencies collect and release data to the public must be completely re-conceptualized from the ground up.”

- **Providing more support for a statewide compstat system.** We must provide our police with the capability to conduct real-time crime tracking, mapping, and analysis, which requires maximum accountability at the precinct level and assists police in the effective deployment of officers to stop the crimes that matter most to a neighborhood. This approach has revolutionized policing and driven down crime in many cities, including Chicago. Launched in 2003, CLEAR (Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting) is credited with helping to decrease the number of homicides and shootings in Chicago between 2004 and 2006. CLEAR is also used by more than 400 police departments in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. In addition, CLEARMAP integrates alerts into a crime mapping tool that the public can access online.
- **Establishing a specially-trained State Police Task Force unit of experienced state officers who will be available to serve, upon request, in coordination with local police departments.** These officers will be available to assist local departments to address particular crime problems that temporarily overwhelm local agencies and resources.
- **Better coordinating existing cross-jurisdictional groups through a Joint Emergency Police Task Force to attack the problem of gun violence, school safety, and open air drug dealing** at the request of local districts. Dan will build upon the ongoing efforts of the Metropolitan Enforcement Groups, which exist in several counties and bring together state, county, and local law enforcement to fight gangs, drugs, and weapons.
- **Targeting and Eliminating “Hot Spots”:** For various and often simple reasons, such as poor lighting or problematic traffic patterns, certain locations are prone to crime. Ninety percent of crime occurs in 10 percent of crime locations. Cities that have identified those hot spots, assessed *why* they are hotspots, and developed proactive strategies to solve those problems have seen dramatic decreases in crime. Dan will champion a Strategic Hotspot Initiative that will systematically identify and eliminate crime hotspots using proactive analysis and strategic crime prevention techniques. These techniques include using the most modern technologies, such as new lighting, surveillance cameras, and bullet detection devices, to make a “hotspot” location highly unattractive as a place to commit crime.
- **Getting Violent and Repeat Offenders Off the Streets:** According to the National Institute of Justice, 50 percent of crime is committed by 10 percent of the criminal population, and less than 1 percent of the entire population commits the majority of

violent crime. Just like “hot spots,” focusing intensely on getting that high-risk group of criminals off the street can dramatically reduce a city’s crime rate.

2. **Helping the Police to Fight Crime**

Chicago in particular faces a serious problem with being able to put enough police on the streets – especially in high-crime neighborhoods. The Chicago Police Department finds itself short-staffed by as many as 2,000 officers per day – and a recent study found that some citizens have had to wait as long as 90 minutes for police to arrive after reporting an armed robbery. This cannot continue.

We need to help give our police the tools they need to do their job more efficiently and effectively, so they can spend more time stopping crime and less time reporting it. And we need to provide the resources to make policing an even more attractive profession for those who wish to serve their communities. As Governor, Dan Hynes will work with our police departments to help them to do an even better job on their critical mission, including:

- **Increasing pay levels for police officers.** Officers who seek higher education or professional development should also be rewarded with salary increases. Coupled with higher recruiting standards, pay raises can help create a more career-oriented police force.
- **Creating a recruitment program with our colleges and universities** to identify, educate, and train quality recruits; students would receive scholarships in exchange for working for at least four years in an Illinois police department.
- **Modernizing incident reporting to free up police officers to spend more time on the street.** Using the Internet for taking minor crime reports will allow police officers to devote less time to filling out reports, thus freeing them to address more pressing issues. It will also allow police departments to build a more representative database quickly and move toward the goal of a “paperless” agency. By providing citizens with the ability to report criminal activity confidentially, an avenue will be opened that has previously been denied to those residents who fear retaliation. Online reporting and anonymous tips may lead to improved clearance rates for violent crime, notably in neighborhoods where visible cooperation with police is problematic.
- **Partnering the police with effective probation and parole.** Experiences in Boston and other jurisdictions have demonstrated that an engaged, active probation department, which among other things has the ability to undertake searches that the police cannot, can make enormous contributions to crime reduction. The State should help local police to partner with probation departments in strategic ways to ensure that high-risk offenders do not turn back to crime — and, if they do, that they are caught immediately. Dan will do the following:

- **Develop more probation substations.** Cincinnati has seen great results from probation substations located in neighborhoods—probation officers and police officers work together to keep highest-risk offenders off the street.
- **Enforce stay away orders.** Dan will work with county prosecutors and the courts to ensure that stay away orders, which prohibit drug dealers from returning to the neighborhood where they have committed crimes, are a regular condition of probation, and are strictly enforced.
- **Institute police-probation joint patrols** for high-risk offenders—an approach that benefits both the police and probation officers involved.

3. Focusing on Youth Violence

There’s something very wrong in Chicago. In the Roseland neighborhood, Diane Latiker and her husband have built a memorial that features a mini-headstone for every child killed in Chicago since Blair Holt in 2007. They’re up to 160 stones and just ordered 33 more at Home Depot.

The Latikers shouldn’t need to be ordering more stones. Instead, we ought to be leaving no stone unturned in our search for ways to end the youth violence plaguing our great city. We ought to make the Latikers’ memorial a sad monument to the past rather than a growing emblem of the present.

As a father of three, Dan can’t imagine anything more important than keeping our kids safe. As the husband of a doctor at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, which treats many victims of violence and gunshot wounds, he has also seen first-hand the personal toll the city’s wave of street crime is taking on our people. He knows that tackling this epidemic of youth violence won’t be easy – there’s no single cause and no single solution. Dan understands that we need to address a wide range of inter-related issues – including such root causes as substance abuse and the drug trade, gangs, and the widespread availability and use of dangerous weapons in schools and on our streets. And he believes that we need to address these problems on a variety of levels – not just in the halls of government and in police precincts, but in neighborhoods, schools, and homes throughout our communities.

That will require a comprehensive approach to youth violence. It will require coordination between law enforcement and social services, between schools and homes, between communities and state government. In short, it will require gubernatorial leadership. Dan Hynes will be that kind of Governor, by:

a. Helping Communities to Keep Kids from Becoming Criminals

The Chicago Community Trust and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning jointly initiated a comprehensive, long-range planning project for the Chicago region entitled *Go To 2040*. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and the

University of Illinois at Chicago's Center for Research in Law and Justice took the lead in formulating the project's crime and justice report. As the FINAL REPORT OF THE GO TO 2040 CRIME AND JUSTICE PLANNING INITIATIVE, put it earlier this year:

By relying so heavily on the police for public safety, there is a lack of recognition that public order is maintained largely by the social structure of the community itself, not by the police. Neighborhoods with high levels of collective efficacy (i.e., ability to look out for one another) and cohesion are less prone to violence and disorder than neighborhoods where social disorder is prevalent. Therefore, we must think more creatively about ways to mobilize the community and get them more involved in setting norms and standards of appropriate behavior.

Dan knows that Chicago is a city of neighborhoods. We must empower neighborhoods to control youth violence if we are truly going to stop this problem. We need a Governor who will head these insights and implement new community-oriented strategies. As Governor, Dan will work to break down walls between the police and the community, to get them working together to address our common interest in ending youth violence, by:

- **Working with law enforcement and community groups to reduce youth violence by continuing to apply the lessons of the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention's Operation CeaseFire**, which has helped decrease shootings by an average of 23 percent in six Chicago neighborhoods. Before CeaseFire began working in Chicago, there were consistently more than 600 homicides per year; in 2004, when CeaseFire received state funding and was able to expand to more communities, the rate dropped to 448 homicides. Another external evaluation showed that CeaseFire reduces shootings by between 43 percent and 71 percent in the zones in which it is present. CeaseFire is directed by an Advisory Board and Steering Committee comprised of criminal justice, health, religious, and civic leaders. The project is supported by private foundation grants and local, state, and federal funds. CeaseFire focuses on street violence, particularly shootings and killings, through community mobilization; youth outreach; public education; faith-based leader involvement; and criminal justice participation. It is now being implemented in at least 15 neighborhoods in Chicago and five other cities in Illinois, though the program is in only 25 percent of the highest needs areas. Dan Hynes knows the need to expand this program first hand because he has stood hand-in-hand at midnight marches with CeaseFire and community leaders in some of Chicago's most troubled neighborhoods. However, raising awareness will not be enough. Dan will work to find ways to obtain government and foundation backing to quadruple CeaseFire's \$4.5 million budget for Chicago to cover all of the highest need areas, and to bring CeaseFire into more communities throughout Illinois. Yes, that means some serious money – but we can easily pay for it with reductions in the massive medical, criminal justice, and social costs of today's carnage.
- **Using community service as corrective punishment, rather than just locking youth up:** More can be done to enable juveniles to understand the damage done

by their anti-social behavior and connect them with their communities, rather than simply punishing them and not seeking personal change. The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998 incorporated balanced and restorative justice as a guiding principle. As such, it allows the State's Attorney to establish Community Mediation Panels the goal of which is to make minors who commit crimes aware of the seriousness of their actions and the effect of their crimes on them, their families, their victims, and their communities. But it is unclear whether these panels have been implemented. Dan will work to ensure that these panels are put in place.

- **Breaking the cycle of crime early:** Since the early 1990s, Illinois has participated in a Department of Justice program called the Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP), which focuses on juvenile repeat offenders. SHOCAP is a cooperative information-sharing and case management program that allows law enforcement, prosecutors, the courts, corrections, schools, social service agencies, and after-school programs to track repeat child offenders. This allows services to be better matched to the juvenile offenders' needs and for offenders to be closely supervised while they perform community service and restitution work. This program should be expanded to help break the cycle of crime among repeat youth offenders.
- **Supporting the efforts of Neighborhood and Block Watch programs and Community Advisory Boards.** Many citizen groups already know who their local minor offenders are and would be helpful in identifying areas for greater police presence, as well as saving the amount of time officers need to spend before arrests can be made. Chicago has benefitted from its nationally-recognized CAPS program, assigning officers to beats so that they could get to know the community and meet regularly with community members and training officers in problem solving to help prevent crime. Dan Hynes will work with other communities to implement similar programs. He will ensure that state criminal justice and housing agencies provide easy avenues for neighborhood groups to identify and communicate problem spots or individuals and ensure that government agencies follow through on that information swiftly.

b. Keeping Families Safe in Their Own Homes

Domestic violence and abuse are serious components of our youth violence problem – and of our crime rate in general: Children who grow up in violent homes come to believe that violence is normal. The majority of adult violent prisoners were raised in violent homes. Stopping violence at home is essential to stopping violence in our society generally.

It won't be easy:

Every 15 seconds in the U.S. a woman is beaten.

Domestic violence results in more injuries that require medical attention than rape, accidents, and muggings combined.

Two in five women who are murdered are killed by their husbands.

We need gubernatorial leadership to tackle the problem of violence in the home – to start sending the message that *no* child in Illinois will grow up with the idea that violence is normal or acceptable. As Governor, Dan Hynes will make this a priority, by:

- **Advocating for “One-Stop Shops” for Domestic Violence Cases.** In 2005 Cook County opened a Domestic Violence court that handles civil and criminal orders of protection as well as misdemeanors and felonies. There is also space for victims’ advocates and separate entrances and waiting areas for victims and abusers. Other counties in Illinois should follow Cook County’s example and create similar one-stop shops to create safe and efficient spaces for victims by creating a user-friendly process, an array of comprehensive direct services, and referrals to provide support and assistance.
- **Permitting courts, when they issue protection orders, to include conditions beyond physical protection,** such as restraining the improper use of family financial or other resources.
- **Increasing sanctions for violations of protection orders,** including:
 - Mandating counseling for any violation.
 - Imposing a minimum forty-eight hour incarceration for second contempt violations resulting in physical injury to a spouse or a child.
 - Imposing a minimum 30-day imprisonment for third violations.
 - Charging a violator with child-abuse if the offender hits the spouse in a home with a child.
- **Pressing for laws to automatically repeal probation for batterers** who violate “no-contact orders,” even for the slightest infraction.
- **Including information on domestic violence, resources for victims, and putting the statewide domestic violence hotline number** on state websites, on lottery tickets, in newsletters, even in mailings from the Secretary of State’s Office, among others.
- **Expanding efforts to cross-train** law enforcement and other allied professionals about family violence.
- **Encouraging schools to develop consistent policies around dating violence** in consultation with local advocates and domestic violence organizations.
- **Encouraging businesses to keep victims employed and to support community efforts such as matched savings programs.** Build on the recently passed law that prohibits discrimination against an individual based on his or her status as

being protected by an order of protection to make sure that state agencies have policies in place to help employees who are victims so that they don't lose jobs.

- **Putting domestic violence victims on a priority list for public housing.** Build on several recent supports put in place for victims of domestic violence. Under federal law, an applicant's history of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking cannot be used as a reason to refuse housing assistance. In addition, a victim of domestic violence cannot be evicted based on incidents of actual or threatened violence. Now we must give victims more support by helping them get into public housing.
- **Mandating ongoing domestic violence training** for police, judges, court staff and prosecutors to improve our justice system's response in domestic violence cases.

c. **Cracking Down on Substance Abuse**

We all know that the scourge of drugs is a prime element in urban gang and youth violence. This problem has been growing worse, and it's time for new approaches from Springfield to address it.

Even while violent crime and property crime offense rates in our state declined from 1997 to 2007, drug offense rates were going *up*, according to the Illinois Uniform Crime (I-UCR) program. The reported drug arrest rate per 100,000 persons increased 6 percent (from 806 per 100,000 persons to 856 per 100,000 persons), the reported arrest rate for marijuana violations increased 54 percent, the reported arrest rate for drug paraphernalia violations increased 27 percent, and the reported arrest rate for hypodermic needle/syringe violations increased 22 percent. (The reported arrest rate for controlled substances violations decreased 29 percent.)

People arrested in Chicago are more likely than prisoners in other major cities to test positive for drugs, according to a May 2009 report from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. The report, based on data collected in 2008, shows 87 percent of people arrested in Chicago test positive for drugs. Heroin use in the city is up 45 percent since 2007. Chicago is also the nation's number one city for heroin use among arrestees, the report says. The data, from a report called the 2008 Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program, looked at drug use among male arrestees in 10 major cities. It found the most common drugs were marijuana, cocaine, opiates, and methamphetamine. In Chicago, 40 percent tested positive for more than one illegal drug.

As Governor, Dan will pursue the newest ideas that show promising results in tackling drug use and abuse. This will require working statewide with law enforcement and our court system – and locally with housing authorities, schools, and communities – to curtail the illegal drug use that drives so much crime, especially among our young. Specifically, he will do this by:

- **Expanding drug courts in Illinois.** Dan will pursue a combination of federal, State, local, and private funding for this initiative to reduce crime and incentivize healthier lives. These courts provide non-violent drug-addicted defendants with drug treatment as an alternative to incarceration; if defendants successfully complete the program, charges may be dropped or sentences reduced or eliminated. Currently, drug courts operate in Champaign, Coles, Cook, DuPage, Jersey, Kane, Kankakee, Macon, Madison, Peoria, Pike, Rock Island, Saline, Will, and Winnebago Counties. They have reduced recidivism and generate overall cost savings.
- **Instituting coercive abstinence programs** to keep offenders off drugs after their release – through constant, rather than sporadic, drug testing, and *immediate* but *graduated* sanctions for failure, along with mandatory detoxification and counseling efforts to keep them *off* drugs until their addiction is licked. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse recently reported that over 80 percent of America’s prison inmates have a drug or alcohol problem – which in turn is a major factor in the high recidivism rate for these criminals. The Office of National Drug Policy estimates, however, that treatment in prison and after release, combined with tough penalties for using drugs again, can cut recidivism in half. With every American spending about \$100 each, every year, to incarcerate criminals for drug- and alcohol-related crimes, we must act to *reduce* such crimes, not just to incarcerate perpetrators after the fact.
- **Requiring state housing agencies to organize landlord training classes** to help spot drug abuse in rented out homes and properties.
- **Empowering neighbors to close drug houses down for good.** We must authorize neighborhood groups, community organizations, neighbors, local government, and County prosecutors to bring civil actions to declare a site a drug nuisance and enjoin further activity, close and secure the premises, and impose civil fines. This has not been done on a systematic basis in Illinois. Some communities, such as Peoria, have systems in place to track landlords and homeowners who receive nuisance letters for drug activity and make that information public. Examples of more systematic programs are Safe Streets Now, which operates in several cities in California and in which volunteers learn how to recognize drug houses in their neighborhood, organize their blocks, and work with police to document the public nuisance and bring complaints in small claims court, and the Drug Nuisance and Social Vices Abatement Act passed in Delaware.

While most attention focuses on *illegal* drugs, substance abuse involving the *legal* drug alcohol is among the most devastating problems in our society and one of the leading causes of violence. For instance, more than a third of Chicago homicide victims had alcohol in their system, while only 3 percent showed traces of “hard drugs” like heroin or cocaine in their blood. We need to address substance abuse in this area, as well, by:

- **Prohibiting plea bargaining or reducing** an alcohol-related offense to a non-alcohol related offense. At least 33 states have enacted this sort of law.
- **Lowering the Blood Alcohol Concentration levels for repeat offenders.** Offenders who have had one or more prior DUI convictions should not be allowed to get behind the wheel if their BAC exceeds half the legal limit, or .04. Prior offenders who are caught driving with a BAC that exceeds .04 should be subject to a range of sanctions, including license revocation, vehicle sanctions, fines, and/or imprisonment.

d. Restraining Gun Violence

People, not guns, may kill people – but people with guns kill more people than anyone else. Four-fifths of Chicago homicide victims in 2008 died from gunshot wounds.

As Patrick Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, puts it, we need to “change the way people with guns think. They have to be afraid to carry a gun – not afraid to be without one.”

The social costs of gun violence in Chicago total about \$2.5 billion each year, according to “Gun Violence among School-Age Youth in Chicago,” the first report from the University of Chicago Crime Lab issued in March 2009. Expanding upon previous research that every crime-related gunshot wound causes around \$1 million in social costs, the report’s four authors calculated the annual cost of gun violence at \$2.5 billion, or \$2,500 per Chicago household.

We’re not going to end the carnage on our streets, in our schools, and in our neighborhoods without restraining the availability of guns, particularly to young people, and their use by criminal gangs. With more than one child per day being shot in our schools, we cannot pretend otherwise. As Governor, I will work to get guns out of the hands of young people by:

- **Encouraging schools to teach anti-violence life skills**, especially conflict resolution. Illinois law requires schools to have a policy about bullying and encourages schools to include gang resistance education in all grades. This law should be strengthened and should include a parental involvement component.
- **Requiring safety locks for handguns.**
- **Enacting measures to increase gun safety in the home.** Currently, Illinois law prohibits a person from storing or leaving within premises under his control a firearm if he knows or has reason to believe that a minor under age 14 is likely to gain access to the firearm and the minor causes death or great bodily harm with the firearm.

A bill was proposed in 2009 that would eliminate the requirement that the minor cause death or bodily injury with the firearm, increase the age of the minor to 18, and change the penalty if the minor does cause death or bodily injury. Dan supports this bill.

Dan will also work with police departments and community groups to implement innovative gun confiscation programs similar to programs such as St. Louis' **Consent to Search** effort. In one phase of that program, citizens and community groups worked with police to identify homes suspected of containing illegal guns. Two officers and a sergeant would visit the residence, speak with an adult resident, and request permission to search the premises. Residents were assured that the sole purpose of the search was to confiscate illegal firearms belonging to juveniles and that by providing written consent to search, they would not be charged with illegal possession of a firearm. During the 18-month duration of the program, consent was given an astonishing 98 percent of the time. Half of the searches ultimately turned up firearms, with 510 weapons seized and taken away from youth.

- **Cracking down on guns at school.** The General Assembly recently passed a law increasing the penalties for using a firearm on school grounds and for carrying a firearm on public transportation. But Dan believes that we can still do more to enhance penalties for gun violations, such as the creating safety zones around libraries, youth and daycare centers, public buildings, and schools so that gun crimes committed in those areas carry heavier sentences.
- **Enacting a Gang-Busters Law** that would broaden anti-racketeering laws. Specifically, this law would apply existing strategies used to combat organized crime to street gangs, making it an offense to engage in a pattern of felonies, and thereby increase the sentences street gangs can receive for their offenses. In particular, such a new law would:
 - Confiscate weapons owned or possessed for purpose of illegal gang activity;
 - Make it an offense to knowingly provide weapons for gang use; and
 - Bar juvenile delinquents from owning weapons for ten years.
- **Improving reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check system.** A bill introduced in the State House in 2009 that would have required private handgun sellers to sell firearms at the place of business of a federally licensed firearm dealer who would conduct a background check of the buyer and follow all other applicable federal, state, and local laws did not pass. The law would have closed the “private sale loophole” in the federal Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act. Dan will support this bill if it is reintroduced.
- **Discouraging the further expansion of conceal and carry laws.** Governor Quinn recently signed into law a bill that extends lawful possession of a firearm to “legal dwellings” and to the “land or in the legal dwelling of another person as an invitee with that person’s permission....” This law could have dangerous

consequences, and Dan will work to repeal the law and stop the expansion of conceal and carry in Illinois.

- **Expanding Project Safe Neighborhoods.** Begun in Chicago, under this program the US Attorney’s Office, the Chicago Police Department, the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office, and federal law enforcement agencies are aggressively prosecuting gang members and organizations. Every state defendant charged with a gun-related offense is reviewed for possible federal prosecution. The program began in two Chicago Police districts and has grown to six. Dan will work with federal prosecutors to expand this approach, getting more of our most serious offenders off the street through tougher sentences.
- **Targeting enforcement on those who are making illegal gun sales.**

e. **Expanding Opportunity for Youth**

While we need to do everything in our power to confront and stop youth violence and its causes – including tackling the difficult issues of drugs, guns, and domestic violence – we also need to take a broader view. Most kids caught in the spiral of inner-city violence do not want to live with this violence, either: They want a way out. That was true of Derrion Albert. He didn’t get his chance – we need to do everything we can to make sure that more kids *do*.

Educational quality and crime are in fact closely tied. One study in Chicago found that the average juvenile in custody scored lower on vocabulary tests than 95 percent of the general youth population. As our state’s Center for Research in Law and Justice reported, “Striking empirical evidence from the Perry Preschool experiment in Michigan showed large differences between the arrest rates of students in the intensive preschool effort and a control group not in the program. Some have estimated that the preschool program generated \$13 in benefits for every \$1 spent, with most of the savings because of a reduction in the criminal behavior of boys.”

As Governor, Dan will support Chicago Public Schools chief Ron Huberman’s anti-violence campaign, currently funded with federal stimulus money, calling for intensive mentoring for the 200 most at-risk high school students, and additional school counselors, social workers, and sympathetic school security personnel for the 38 most dangerous schools. He will also expand bullying prevention efforts in schools statewide and the other school-based, anti-violence education and outreach programs discussed above.

But, most of all, Dan will use the surpluses that his budget plan generates specifically to improve education statewide. These education efforts are needed in their own right. They are also, ultimately, our best economic development strategy. **But they are also our best long-term anti-crime policy.** As Governor, Dan will build on existing research on what works to reduce youth violence and turn all our young people into productive future-citizens by:

- Expanding pre-school programs.
- Expanding afterschool enrichment efforts.
- Combating the dropout-rate.
- Providing more mentors and adult role-models.
- Increasing respect, discipline, and citizenship in schools.

Giving every child a chance to earn his or her way to a better future through increased emphasis on *need-based* college aid and scholarships for community service.

These are all elements of the Hynes Plan for a Clean Start on Education that Dan will be unveiling later in this campaign.