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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES TEXT AND VOICE MESSAGE COURT REMINDERS

*CPD partners with Cook County to reduce missed court appearances,
avoidable arrest warrants*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today announced the City Council passage of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and Cook County that would enable call and text notifications to people charged with crimes to remind them of their upcoming court appearance date and times through a program called the Cook County Automated Court Reminder System (ACRS).

"Many times, those who receive summonses are trying to stay on productive, positive paths," said Mayor Emanuel. "This simple reminder could be the difference between jail time and getting or remaining on the path to success – not to mention reducing the financial costs to taxpayers for having to reschedule court appearances."

Every year, thousands of residents miss at least one court appearance, which can exacerbate the financial and social impact of the initial arrest. ARCS text and voice message court appearance reminders will go toward helping people charged with crimes avoid failures to appear, while also providing cost savings and efficiencies to the criminal justice system, such as easing the backlog of criminal cases in the court system. A failure to appear can result in the immediate issuance of an arrest warrant, which can have devastating and sometimes disproportionate financial and social costs for those charged with crimes.

With this City Council approval, the ARCS system will go live today on a pilot basis with voice telephone calls and text messaging will be active beginning February 2018. Residents will be given the opportunity to opt in or out of the automated text and voice messaging program at the time of arrest, at no cost to them. The voice or text message reminds people charged with crimes of the date, time and location of their court appearance, as well as a number for their court location that they can contact with any follow up questions. The voice message can be provided in English, Spanish, Polish, Arabic or Russian.

The approved agreement to implement and manage the ARCS program is between CPD, the Office of the Chief Judge, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Cook county Sheriff's Office and Cook County Public Defender's Office, Bureau of Technology. The intergovernmental agreement

allows the Chicago Police Department to record the choices people charged with crimes and share that information with Cook County.

In addition to opting in at the time of arrest, people charged with crimes can sign up for court reminders at <https://courtreponder.cookcountyil.gov>.

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