



**Lori E. Lightfoot**  
Mayor

**Department of Police • City of Chicago**  
3510 South Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60653

**David O. Brown**  
Superintendent of Police

January 7, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Chicago Public Schools and Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation's Cops & Kids Chess Initiative.

Chicago Public Schools and Renaissance Knights have had a long-standing partnership to provide chess instruction, competition and tournaments to Chicago Public School students. This initiative expands on the outstanding work they have been doing by using chess as a vehicle to promote non-violence and foster positive relationships among Chicago Police Officers and youth from diverse communities throughout the City of Chicago.

I recognize the many outcomes and skills that chess provides our youth including critical thinking, teamwork and math concepts, which can all be applied to improving their overall life skills. Programs such as these offer students a safe place where they can learn and play chess during the peak hour where juveniles are typically victims of crime or engage in criminal activity themselves.

During this current climate, Cops and Kids is a much-needed program to promote positive interactions between youth and police officers. Through our combined efforts, we will help children develop the fundamental skills necessary to succeed both socially and academically, help reduce youth violence and keep kids out of gangs and engaged in school.

We at the Chicago Police Department believe that nothing is more important than the education and safety of our children, and we fully support the efforts of the Chicago Public Schools and Renaissance Knights as they seek to bring the benefits of chess to more schools and students. We are delighted for the Chicago Police Department to serve as a partner with this initiative and are convinced that any programs that can help our students develop social-emotional, critical, and creative thinking skills will benefit our children, schools and the community at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D.O.B.", with a checkmark at the end.

David O. Brown  
Superintendent  
Chicago Police Department