



April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Rahm Emanuel  
Mayor, City of Chicago  
120 North LaSalle  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mr. Mayor:

As Faith Leaders and our community-based network of affiliates, we are grateful for your efforts last year to provide 24,000 summer jobs for youth in the City of Chicago. As violence is going up at alarming rates and knowing that 65,000 youth applied for jobs last year, we can agree: this summer, together we need to do much more. Therefore, we are requesting an *emergency* meeting with you to discuss our goals.

We trust you will join us in calling for Chicago Safe Summer and ensure 50,000 jobs are made available to the City's youth. The violence among young people in Chicago is at a crisis level. Nothing keeps our young people off the streets as a job. Unless significant action is taken, the violence will continue to escalate.

The increase in summer job opportunities for youth, among other factors will decrease crime, develop healthy work ethics and assist our youth in instructing a positive future for their lives. Given the immediate education crisis, an increase in job opportunities for youth, will also highlight your Administration's goals to make the youth of our city a priority.

The significant increase will, no doubt directly provide opportunities for 50,000 youth who would otherwise be potentially idle this summer. It is important to note that many of the youth applying for job opportunities are below or just above the poverty rate and would likely benefit through this increase. The vast majority of disproportionately youth are from the areas of our city most often neglected, where households receive far less resources and can scarcely make ends meet. At a time when violence is at an all-time high in our city, such an increase will provide additional much-needed resources to the earnings of low level income families and youth within indigenous communities.

As Faith leaders, along with our community-based network of affiliates, we are ready to make a lot of public noise about this--and to show that we are supporting you in making these jobs a reality. Allow us to add our voices to yours, so that we meet the acute need for 50,000 summer jobs for our youth.

Sincerely,