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CHICAGO— Aldermen Proco Joe Moreno (1st Ward) and Howard B. Brookins (21st Ward) filed an Ordinance today in Chicago’s City Council that provides financial compensation and other forms of redress to the Chicago Police torture survivors and their family members.

Describing the need for the ordinance, Alderman Moreno said "The damage done by these individuals is irreversible and will remain a stain on Chicago's reputation and collective consciousness for decades to come. It is our duty to help these victims and their families, and it is a moral and ethical imperative. It is our hope that the healing and forgiving process can begin with the passage of this legislation."

Alderman Brookins said, “police torture under Jon Burge is a disgraceful scandal that has greatly injured the City's African American community. Passage of this important ordinance will help to repair the wounds caused by the scandal and bring some closure to this terrible chapter in our City's history.”

Anthony Holmes, one of Burge’s first known victims said in support of the ordinance, “Burge tortured me with electric shock and suffocation in 1973, and as a result I did thirty years in prison. I was a witness against Burge at his perjury trial, but I have never received one penny in compensation because of the statute of limitations. I now work delivering newspapers. The ordinance will bring some amount of financial justice to me and many other survivors.”

The Ordinance serves as a formal apology to the survivors; creates a Commission to administer financial compensation to the survivors; creates a medical and psychological and vocational center on the south side of Chicago; provides free enrollment in City Colleges to the survivors; requires Chicago Public schools to teach a history lesson about the cases; requires the City to fund public memorials about the cases; and sets aside \$20 million to finance this redress, the same amount of money the City has spent to defend Burge, other detectives and former Mayor Richard M. Daley in the Chicago Police torture cases.

“The City must pass this ordinance in order to provide medical and psychological treatment, as well as educational opportunities and vocational training to the torture survivors and their family members who still bear the deep wounds from these racist torture practices,” said Joey Mogul of the People’s Law Office and Chicago Torture Justice Memorial Project (CTJM), who represents Anthony Holmes and numerous other torture survivors.

G. Flint Taylor, co-founder of the People’s Law Office, and a lawyer for numerous torture victims including Anthony Holmes, said: “this is an important ordinance that would provide an equal amount of money ---\$20,000,000--- to compensate the survivors of Chicago police torture as the City has already paid out in ‘pinstripe patronage’ to defend Jon Burge, Richard Daley and their confederates.”

Alice Kim, of CTJM said "it's about financial compensation, but also a formal apology, a public memorial and history lessons in Chicago schools would go a long way towards fully reckoning with these horrific atrocities."

Over 120 African American men and women were subjected to torture that was racially motivated and included electric shock, mock executions, suffocation and beatings by now convicted former Police Commander Jon Burge and his subordinates. Although Burge was convicted for perjury and obstruction of justice stemming from the torture cases in federal court in 2010, scores of Chicago Police Torture survivors continue to suffer from the psychological effects of the torture they endured without any compensation, assistance, and they have no legal recourse for any redress.

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