



Rahm Emanuel  
Mayor

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

Eddie T. Johnson  
Superintendent of Police

Chicago Public Schools – Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation

Re: *Cops & Kids Chess Initiative*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Chicago Public Schools' and Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation *Cops & Kids Chess* Initiative. It is our aspiration to afford additional engagement opportunities to students from diverse communities to engage in fun, rewarding and safe out of school time chess programs.

Chicago Public Schools and Renaissance Knights have had a long standing partnership to provide youth the enrichment of chess instruction, competition and tournaments. This new 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.

We recognize the many outcomes and skills that chess provides our youth as it employs strategies that include analytics, critical thinking, teamwork and math concepts – just to name a few –which can all be applied to improving their overall life skills. Also, very importantly, programs such as this offer students a safe place where they can learn during the peak hours that juveniles are typically victims of crime or engage in criminal activity themselves.

By having police officers regularly participate in the program, we will increase positive relations 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 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 critical and creative thinking skills will benefit our children, schools and the community at large.

Let's make every move count for our youth.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddie T. Johnson".

Eddie T. Johnson  
Superintendent of Police