

O'Malley, Devin (OPA)

RE: Chicago lawsuit press release from AG Sessions

To: Matt Dietrich

On deep background (not attributable, but you can take as fact):

Chicago struggles to complete its murder investigations. Nationally, the percentage of murder cases that resulted in an arrest (or in identifying a suspect who can't be apprehended, such as a murderer who has himself been killed) was about 62% in 2015. Chicago's percentage was only 25%. (see: <http://www.murderdata.org/2016/12/illinois-lags-all-other-states-in.html>) There won't be data for 2016's investigations for a while yet, but we can expect that the large majority of Chicago's murders won't result in a suspect who can be identified.

Even if they did solve more of their cases, Chicago may choose not to publicly release info that would allow analysis of immigration status. Either way, there are still many, many unsolved murders in Chicago from last year so there is no data yet on who committed those murders. But we know the population of illegals has shot up in Chicago, as has their murder rate.

“We can't say from these figures that there is no link between immigrants in the country illegally and Chicago's homicide problem. There are a number of ways to argue that there may be a link. Perhaps those crimes without known perpetrators — most of them — were committed by such immigrants. (A request for information about the immigration status of known suspects from the state attorney of Cook County was not answered by the time this article was published.) Perhaps some of the victims of the killings fell into that category. Most realistically, perhaps many of the killings can be traced to gang activity that ties, directly or indirectly, to criminal groups linked in some way to Latin America. (How such links would overlap with illegal immigration is another question.)” (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/politics/wp/2017/04/26/trumps-attempt-to-link-illegal-immigration-to-chicagos-homicide-problem-is-extremely-tenuous/?utm_term=.387ecd2ea95e)

On background (as DOJ official), “Unfortunately, because Chicago is so uncooperative when it comes to identifying criminal aliens and sharing that information with federal law enforcement, there is no statistical breakdown of crimes being committed by criminal aliens.”

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