



The Attorney General **protects the civil rights of all Illinois residents**, defending equality under the law. The office **enforces anti-discrimination laws** and **uses litigation and advocacy** to preserve and expand state and federal civil rights protections.

## **Upholding Constitutional Policing to Protect All Citizens**

### **Investigating Police Practices in Joliet:**

The Attorney General's Office in 2021 launched an investigation into possible patterns or practices of unconstitutional or unlawful policing by the Joliet Police Department (JPD). It is examining policies, training, practices, and supervision in relation to traffic/pedestrian stops, searches, arrests, and uses of force.

### **Holding Chicago Police Department Accountable for Reform:**

The Attorney General's Office tracks all movement on the 2019 consent decree that came from its lawsuit against the City of Chicago, calling out a pattern of civil rights violations.

**Warrant Policy:** Attorney General Kwame Raoul called for even more reforms to the proposed search warrant policy the CPD drafted to address the disturbing pattern of "wrong raids" by CPD officers. Our attorneys examined proposed changes against the requirements of the consent decree.

**Foot Pursuit Policy:** The Attorney General and Congressman "Chuy" Garcia welcomed public input about needed changes to the "foot pursuit" policy at an August 2021 virtual round table. The office reviewed and approved the June 2022 policy changes as part of the consent decree.

**Advocating for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act:** Attorney General Kwame Raoul and New York Attorney General Letitia James led a coalition of 11 attorneys general urging the U.S. Senate to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021, which would reform law enforcement agencies nationwide and give state attorneys general clear statutory authority to investigate patterns or practices of unconstitutional policing.

## **Protecting Places of Worship from Mass Shootings**



Attorney General Raoul partnered with the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) for a virtual threat assessment training specifically designed for places of worship, bringing together leaders from many faiths. The 240 attendees learned how to identify, assess and intervene with individuals who exhibit concerning or threatening behaviors.

Similar information been shared with 2,000 individuals in a series of trainings since November 2019 through July 2022. Even more trainings are planned for the rest of the year.

## **Pushing Back on Hate Crimes and and Bias-based Violence**

### **Standing up Against Hate with Asian Residents:**

As the coronavirus spread, Asian Americans faced a spike in discrimination and hate crimes. Attorney General Raoul met with Chinatown stakeholders and the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community to discuss the president's executive order condemning anti-Asian racism related to COVID-19, as well as police reform in Chicago.

**Calling Out Hate Crimes:** Our office partnered with community organizations on a Town Hall to conduct a bystander training and highlight the resources available, including a new Hate Crimes Fact Sheet in 12 languages.

**Taking Down Hate Online:** In August 2021, AG Raoul joined a coalition of attorneys general who sent a letter to Facebook asking the company to take additional steps to prevent the spread of hate, discrimination and online harassment.

# MILESTONES: Defending Our Civil Rights, cont.

## Advocating for Federal Protections for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

### Fighting for Rights Regardless of Gender or Sexual Orientation:

Attorney General Kwame Raoul led a coalition of 25 attorneys general calling on the U.S. Senate to pass legislation that protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

**Defending Transgender Rights:** Attorney General Raoul announced an Illinois appellate court's opinion in *Hobby Lobby v. Sommerville* that reaffirms the rights of transgender individuals under the Illinois Human Rights Act.

It upheld a ruling that found Hobby Lobby violated the Illinois Human Rights Act when it denied a transgender woman the use of the women's bathroom at the store where she works. Attorney General Kwame Raoul, as part of a coalition of 20 attorneys general, also filed an amicus brief opposing efforts to bar transgender students from participating in gender-segregated school sports.



Attorney General Kwame Raoul, as part of a coalition of 23 attorneys general, urged the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to reinstate a rule that protects people from discrimination in housing.

The rule protects individuals against facially neutral housing and lending practices that result in discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or familial status.

## Fighting to Protect Federal Voting Rights



**Defending the Voting Rights Act:** Attorney General Kwame Raoul joined a coalition of 18 attorneys general urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold a robust test for applying Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), which prohibits policies and practices that interfere with citizens' right to vote based on their race.

**Supporting Federal Voting Rights Legislation:** Attorney General Raoul, as part of a coalition of 21 attorneys general, sent a letter to Congressional leadership urging support for the *For*

*the People Act of 2021*. The legislation is an omnibus package of democracy reforms designed to expand access to the ballot, protect elections from foreign interference, force disclosure of dark money in federal elections and raise ethical standards for federal officials.

**Opposing Restrictive Voters' Rights Laws:** Attorney General Kwame Raoul, as part of a coalition of 22 attorneys general, filed an amicus brief opposing Georgia's discriminatory law that would make it more difficult for millions of Georgians – especially Black Georgians – to vote. Raoul and the coalition specifically pushed back against misguided efforts to dismiss the federal government's lawsuit against Georgia, particularly at this threshold stage.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To file a civil rights complaint call the hotline at 877-581-3692

Learn more about the Joliet PD investigation at:  
[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/joliet](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/joliet)

[Download Hate Crimes Fact Sheet](#) (in 12 languages) at  
[IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)



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