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**Awake Illinois Law Enforcement Fellow Chief Tom Weitzel (Ret.)
Releases Landmark SAFE-T Act Reform Report:
“Restoring Balance” Offers Practical Fixes to Protect Illinois Families and Restore Judicial Common Sense**

Naperville, IL – April 8, 2026 – Awake Illinois, the statewide grassroots movement defending parental rights, public safety, and constitutional liberties, today announced the release of a powerful new report by its Fellow of Law Enforcement, Chief Tom Weitzel (Ret.).

Titled **“Restoring Balance: Practical Reforms to Strengthen Public Safety and Judicial Discretion Under the Illinois SAFE-T Act (Pretrial Fairness Act)”**, the 8-page report delivers fact-based, frontline recommendations from a 37-year law enforcement veteran who rose through the ranks to serve as Chief of Police in Riverside. Chief Weitzel identifies how the SAFE-T Act’s elimination of cash bail, overly restrictive detention rules, and narrowed judicial discretion have created predictable consequences: repeat offenders released back into communities, victims placed at greater risk, and eroded trust in the justice system.

The report preserves the Act’s original goals of fairness while proposing seven targeted, achievable reforms, including:

- Expanding the list of detainable offenses to include burglary, organized retail theft, possession of stolen firearms, financial exploitation of the elderly, and more.
- Making aggravated battery against police, firefighters, and EMTs a mandatory detainable offense.
- Reframing the unrealistic “no conditions sufficient” standard to a practical “substantial likelihood” test that considers criminal history and patterns of violence.
- Restoring common-sense definitions of flight risk and strengthening pretrial release revocation.
- Eliminating “postcard” warrants and “essential movement days” under electronic monitoring.

Awake Illinois President Shannon Adcock stated “Chief Tom Weitzel has spent decades protecting Illinois families on the streets, not in some Springfield committee room. His report proves what every cop, prosecutor, and victim already knows: the SAFE-T Act is failing. It’s time to stop protecting criminals and start protecting the public.” Chief Tom Weitzel added “Awake Illinois stands with every law enforcement officer demanding real reform—because Illinois families deserve safety, not more excuses from politicians who don’t have to live with the consequences. These practical changes restore the balance our communities desperately need.”

The full report is now available at AwakeIL.com. Awake Illinois urges lawmakers, prosecutors, sheriffs, and concerned citizens to review these common-sense recommendations and act immediately to restore balance, accountability, and public safety in Illinois.

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About Chief Tom Weitzel

Tom Weitzel served 37 years in law enforcement, including 13 years as Chief of Police in Riverside, Illinois. He is a respected national law enforcement commentator and serves as the Fellow of Law Enforcement with Awake Illinois, offering expert analysis on crime trends, officer safety, and public safety policy.

About Awake Illinois

Awake Illinois is dedicated to promoting public safety, supporting law enforcement, and advocating for policies that protect Illinois communities and families through powerful grassroots mobilization and civic engagement. Founded in 2021, the organization has built a statewide network empowering thousands of citizens to advocate effectively for positive change.