

**DOROTHY BROWN**  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



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## OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

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### **Dorothy Brown Names the Recently Created DUI Taskforce, the Tina Ball Memorial DUI Taskforce**

Recently, in an effort to address the tragic effects of drunken driving in Cook County, the Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, announced the formation of a DUI taskforce.

The first meeting was held on May 12, 2004. The taskforce was recently named the Tina Ball Memorial DUI Taskforce in honor of Mrs. Tina Ball, a construction worker who was struck and killed in a work zone on Interstate 57 by a drunken driver on Sept. 15, 2003. Mrs. Ball left behind her husband and seven children. She was working as a flagger for road construction to provide health insurance for her children and to earn extra money for school clothes and supplies.

Mrs. Ball was struck by Thomas Harris, who, according to reports, had consumed over 92 ounces of malt liquor and beer that fatal afternoon. Harris had been arrested six times for DUI with four convictions and one supervision. He had recently gotten out of jail after serving time for his most recent DUI.

Clerk Brown learned that it was the Ball family's desire to strengthen the laws against drunk driving after seeing family members wearing t-shirts imprinted with the words "Tina's Law." Clerk Brown promised the Ball family that she would create a taskforce to try and help make "Tina's Law" a reality.

The Tina Ball Memorial DUI Taskforce is comprised of representatives of several agencies and organizations that deal with the issue of drunk driving. During its inaugural meeting, the taskforce established subcommittees that will review current laws, research the DUI registry and examine the possibility of establishing stiffer penalties for offenders.

In a written statement the Ball family stated, "Knowing that Dorothy Brown and all members of the Tina Ball Memorial Taskforce are working on thickening the DUI Laws in her memory, helps reassure us that there are people out there that do care about the lives of others. We send our thanks out to the Tina Ball Memorial Taskforce in loving memory of Tina."

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