

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City is committed to identifying innovative and responsible strategies for enhancing revenue to support essential public services, infrastructure improvements, and economic development initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the authorization of a casino in Chicago has created new opportunity for the City to generate revenue through regulated gaming, with Bally's currently holding the license to operate Chicago's first and only casino; and

WHEREAS, under State law, the licensed casino operator for the City is also designated as the operator authorized to install and manage slot machines at Chicago's airports; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Host Community Agreement between the City and Bally's, the total number of allowable gaming positions was allocated to the permanent and temporary casino facilities, which has effectively precluded the immediate installation of airport slot machines under the current agreement; and

WHEREAS, Chicago is home to two of the nation's busiest airports which serve tens of millions of domestic and international travelers annually; and

WHEREAS, other major U.S. airports have successfully introduced slot machines as a revenue generation tool, providing a proven model for how Chicago could responsibly implement gaming options in secure, controlled airport environments; and

WHEREAS, installing slot machines at O'Hare and Midway could accelerate the timeline for generating gaming-related revenue for the City, while offering convenience for tourists who wish to engage in gaming during layovers or prior to departure; and

WHEREAS, a full understanding of the financial, logistical, and regulatory considerations is necessary to assess the viability and benefits of implementing airport slot machines in coordination with Bally's and relevant City departments; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby call upon the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Aviation to convene a joint subject matter hearing on the potential revenue-earning possibilities and implementation considerations relating to installing slot machines at Chicago's airports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives of Bally's Corporation, the Chicago Department of Aviation, the Department of Finance, and other relevant stakeholders be invited to testify at such hearing.



GILBERT VILLEGAS
Alderman, 36th Ward