

Call on the Chicago Transit Authority Board to Snuff Out Smoking Across the CTA

WHEREAS, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) serves every community and everyone who lives, works, or visits the city from students to seniors; and

WHEREAS, smoking is prohibited across CTA stations, trains, and buses; and

WHEREAS, during the recent state session, the Illinois General Assembly did not pass legislation to address the fiscal cliff facing the CTA, and Chicago must look for ways to address health, comfort, and safety locally across the system in the short term, which would increase ridership and bring in revenue; and

WHEREAS, the number of citations for smoking issued by the Chicago Police Department (CPD) has risen in recent years, with 6,385 citations issued in 2023, an increase from the 4,024 issued in 2022 and the most since 2019; and

WHEREAS, these citations rarely yield a penalty and according to 2021 data from the Chicago Departments of Finance and Administrative Hearings, [only 5% of citations were paid and collected](#); and

WHEREAS, passengers can report instances of smoking to the CTA in real time via their mobile device, and the Red and Blue lines received the most complaints in 2023, when the latest data was released; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control, secondhand smoke can cause a number of harmful health outcomes, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, and respiratory infections; and

WHEREAS, smoking indoors in public and places of employment has been banned by both Chicago and Illinois since 2008 due to the dangerous health impacts of secondhand smoke, including severe asthma and asthma attacks; and

WHEREAS, 16% of families in Chicago report having a child with asthma – a condition more likely for Black children in Illinois than for white or Latine children – and K-12 students take 68,000 trips on CTA every day, adding up to nearly 12 million trips, and potential exposures to secondhand smoke, throughout the school year; and

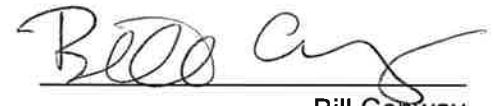
WHEREAS, in 2024, ridership across the CTA reached 68% of pre-pandemic levels, totaling 309.2 million rides, and in quarterly surveys from the Regional Transportation Authority, smoking is consistently a top concern and deterrent for riders; and

WHEREAS, concern regarding smoking negatively impacts rider retention, and to increase ridership, the CTA must take greater strides to prevent smoking across the system and increase the patrol and penalties for this offense; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Transit Authority Board last updated its Rules of Conduct in 2016 – prior to a global pandemic and the fiscal cliff the transit system faces today;

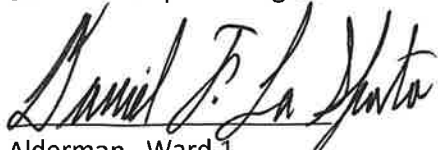
BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the City Council of the City of Chicago, call on the Chicago Transit Authority Board to provide more transparency about the prevalence of smoking on CTA trains and buses and to update its Rules of Conduct and share plans to increase enforcement of Ordinance 016-110, and call on the CTA Board to install a new, permanent CTA president with public transit experience who will address this widespread public health and commuter issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the CTA and Chicago Police Department to convene a multi-jurisdictional task force – including the Cook County Sheriff's Office, CPD, and law enforcement from police departments in suburbs served by CTA – to prioritize and develop a collaborative strategy for increased patrol and enforcement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Conway", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Conway
Alderman, 34th Ward

The following legislation is being introduced by Alderman Bill Conway regarding Call for increased efforts to stop smoking on the CTA co-sponsored by

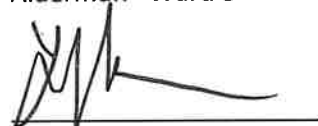

Alderman Ward 1

Alderman Ward 12

Alderman Ward 2

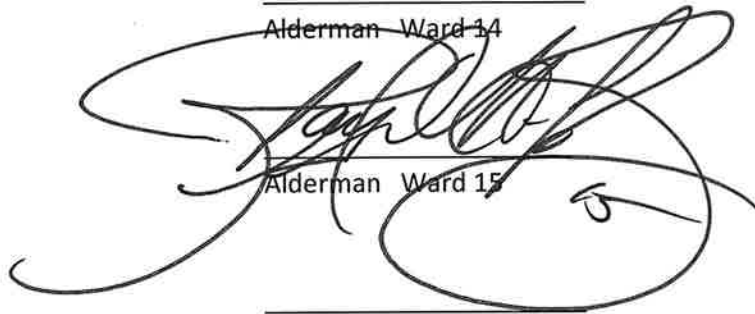

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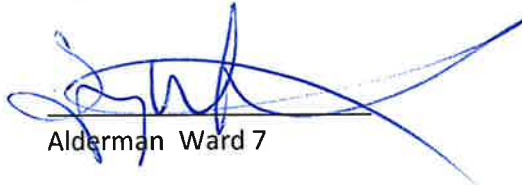

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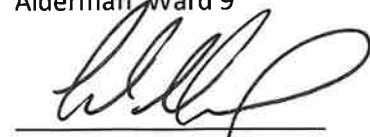
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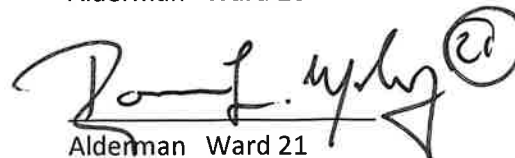
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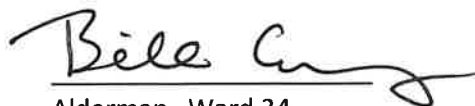

Alderman Ward 11

Alderman Ward 22

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Alderman Ward 23



Alderman Ward 34

Alderman Ward 24



Alderman Ward 35

Alderman Ward 25



Alderman Ward 36

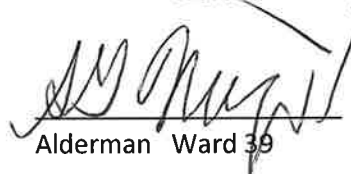
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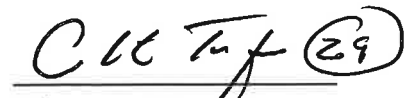
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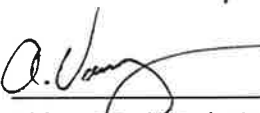
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Alderman Ward 39



Alderman Ward 29



Alderman Ward 40



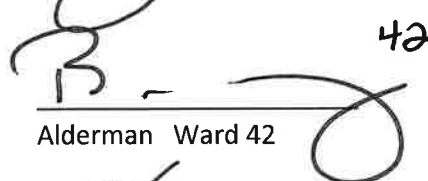
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Alderman Ward 31



Alderman Ward 42

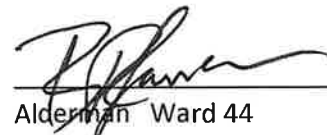


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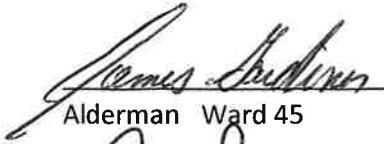
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Alderman Ward 33

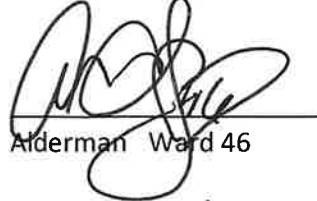


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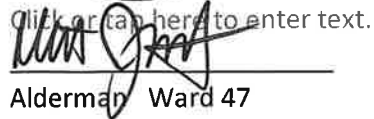
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Alderman Ward 45

Mayor Johnson

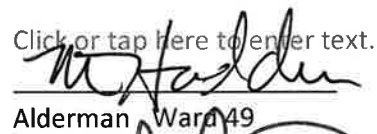

Alderman Ward 46

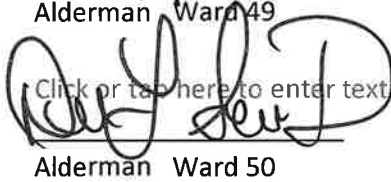
Clerk Valencia

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Alderman Ward 47

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Alderman Ward 48

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Alderman Ward 49

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Alderman Ward 50