

Committee on Immigration and Refugee Rights

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MONTHLY HEARINGS ON THE CITY RESPONSE TO THE MIGRANT CRISIS

WHEREAS, Chicago, as city was founded in 1780 by John Baptiste Pointe DuSable on indigenous land belonging to the Potawatomi, Odawa, and Ijibwe or the Three Fires Confederacy, and

WHEREAS, in 1985 Mayor Harold Washington issued an Executive Order prohibiting City employees from enforcing federal immigration laws and halting the City's practice of asking job and driver's license applicants about their citizenship status and,

WHEREAS, in 2006 Mayor Richard J. Daley and the Chicago City Council reaffirmed the Executive Order and then voted the order into law per the municipal code and,

WHEREAS, in 2012 Mayor Rahm Emanuel introduced the Welcoming City Ordinance to ensure that Chicago is a sanctuary city for immigrants seeking refugee and,

WHEREAS, in 2022 Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the City Council voted to further expand the protections in the Welcoming City Ordinance and,

WHEREAS, in 2022 asylum seekers who came into the United States via Texas came to be bussed and flown into Chicago by its Republican Governor Greg Abbot, and

WHEREAS, since that time over 11,000 refugees have been sent to Chicago, with over 500 of them, men, women, and children being left with no option other than to live and sleep in every police station in the City of Chicago, and,

WHEREAS, the Chicago Department of Health, the Office of Emergency Management and Coordination, the Department of Family Support Services, Department of Housing, and the Mayor's Office are working to establish shelter, support services, and a Welcoming infrastructure in Chicago, and

WHEREAS, Chicago, not having proper Welcoming or Transitional infrastructure to support the influx of refugees, has relied on the organization and work of Mutual Aid Networks comprised of volunteer neighbors to provide meals, clothing, blankets, and other resources for months, and,

WHEREAS, the State Legislature and Federal Government have provided minimum support, both financial and legislative, to Chicago to build the necessary staff and shelter support system, and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to know what work is being done, what funds are being invested, and what the opportunities to support both the newest refugee arrivals and the existing marginalized communities and populations, therefor

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BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled here on this 21st day of June, 2023, do hereby call for monthly hearings of the Committee on Immigration and Refugee Rights to receive updates on what the Johnson Administration and its City department plans and processes are, on what the neighbor-led volunteer mutual aid network is supporting, and what progress is being made at the State and Federal level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be prepared and presented to the Chair of the Committee of Immigration and Refugee Rights for immediate adoption.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "A. Vasquez, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Andre Vasquez, Jr.
Alderman, 40th Ward