

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUBJECT MATTER HEARING TO EXAMINE AND IMPROVE  
EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN**

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago opens up heating and cooling centers coordinated by the Office of Emergency Management and Communication, Department of Family and Support Services and Chicago Police Department only under specific conditions including but not limited to National Weather Service issuance of extreme weather conditions and availability of staff; and

WHEREAS, The different departments who coordinate this activation have vague, and in certain instances, conflicting definitions and communication materials of the conditions that would precipitate the commencement of extreme weather response plans which lacks specificity and clarity for the public and other service providers; and

WHEREAS, The media often utilizes different terms than the City agencies do in characterizing weather conditions and may portray that heating or cooling centers are or should be open even if the City has not made this declaration indicating that the City's existing tools of communication are not reaching the most vulnerable people who may need to plan their rapid mobilization to a center; and

WHEREAS, In 2024 there have already been at least two instances where the City opened some of its heating or cooling centers despite not reaching its own typical policy thresholds. While we applaud this action, it is notable that the City did not announce the opening until much later even though the weather had been accurately predicted in advance indicating that there may be a pattern causing last-minute decisions and poor official communication with the outreach sector and the general public that could and therefore should be improved; and

WHEREAS, Effective communication and timely decision-making are critical in ensuring public safety during extreme weather conditions, and the current system's shortcomings must be addressed to prevent future miscommunication and potential harm; and

WHEREAS, Investigating the number of fatalities and hospitalizations that occur from extreme weather in Chicago is essential for understanding the impact of these events and improving emergency response measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of Chicago calls for a subject matter hearing to examine the City of Chicago's extreme weather response plan's triggers and thresholds, successful operation metrics, channels of communication to the public and delegated agencies and service providers, and associated gaps with the aim of improving coordination, transparency, and timely public communication in the activation of heating and cooling centers and other emergency services during extreme weather events. Furthermore, the investigation will include a thorough review of the number of fatalities and hospitalizations caused by extreme weather in Chicago to inform and enhance future emergency response strategies.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "a. Vasquez".

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Andre Vasquez  
Aldersperson, 40th Ward