

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the average temperature in Chicago has already risen 2.6°F to 2.8°F since 1980, and the average annual temperatures are expected to increase by an additional 3.6°F to 5.4°F by 2050; and

WHEREAS, climate change has increased the frequency, duration, and intensity of extreme heat events, with Chicago now experiencing approximately 17 to 24 days each year with temperatures above 90°F, and average annual temperatures projected to continue rising; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2022 report from the APA, 10% to 28% of heat stroke survivors experience ongoing brain damage; and

WHEREAS, a 2019 study from the National Institute of Health found an association between ambient heat and emergency department visits for mental health in U.S. citizens, with an increase in heat resulting in an increase in mental health risks, including anxiety disorders, mood disorders, schizophrenia, childhood-onset behavioral disorders, self-harm, and general irritability; and

WHEREAS, the same report found that there was an 8% increase in mental health-related visits to the emergency department during the hottest days of summer; and

WHEREAS, an APA report found a 2.2% increase in mental-health-related mortality with every 1.8°F increase in ambient temperature; and

WHEREAS, a report from 2023 by APA and ecoAmerica found children are particularly at risk of mental health issues from climate change due to effects on their developing brains; and

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article XI of the Constitution guarantees that “[e]ach person has the right to a healthful environment,” reinforcing the State’s commitment to environmental protection and public health; and

WHEREAS, the City and its departments have the responsibility to adapt to the changing climate in order to protect their citizens health and their safety; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Chicago recognizes extreme heat as a growing public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience challenge requiring coordinated action across City departments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, call upon City of Chicago departments to prioritize heat mitigation through public service announcements, provide education about the effects of heat on mental health, maintain and expand the number of cooling centers throughout the city, install more heat-resilient infrastructure, and make sure policies keep in mind the mental health impacts that can be caused by heat while approaching these efforts through an equity lens.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. E. Hadden", written over a horizontal line.

Maria E. Hadden
Alderwoman, 49th Ward