

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUBJECT MATTER HEARING ON EXPLORING SOLUTIONS
TO MITIGATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION**

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is facing significant challenges related to traffic congestion, with many streets and highways experiencing severe bottlenecks during peak hours, leading to increased travel times and reduced productivity for residents and commuters; and

WHEREAS, the high volume of vehicular traffic contributes to elevated levels of air pollution, including particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), which are known to have detrimental effects on public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have demonstrated a direct correlation between traffic-related air pollution and an increased incidence of respiratory illnesses such as asthma, bronchitis, and other chronic respiratory conditions, particularly affecting vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the American Lung Association has reported that Chicago consistently ranks among the most polluted cities in the United States, with significant portions of the population exposed to unhealthy air quality levels, exacerbating health disparities across different neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, traffic congestion also contributes to noise pollution, which can lead to increased stress, sleep disturbances, and cardiovascular issues among city residents, further impacting their overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the economic costs of traffic congestion and pollution are substantial, including increased healthcare expenses, lost labor productivity, and decreased property values in areas with poor air quality; and

WHEREAS, other major cities around the world, such as London, Stockholm, and Singapore, have successfully implemented congestion pricing schemes to reduce traffic congestion, lower pollution levels, and generate revenue for public transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has a history of redlining Black and immigrant neighborhoods, further fortified by highways acting as hostile infrastructure to segregate these communities and create a unique set of traffic-related noise, health and overall quality-of-life issues; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing consensus among urban planners and environmental scientists that comprehensive traffic management strategies, including congestion pricing, can significantly improve urban air quality and public health outcomes while promoting sustainable transportation options; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is committed to promoting public health, environmental sustainability, and economic vitality for all its residents; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Chicago calls for a subject matter hearing to explore potential solutions to traffic congestion and pollution, including but not limited to congestion pricing, with the aim of developing a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the adverse health and environmental impacts of vehicular traffic in our city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this hearing will engage a broad range of stakeholders, including public health experts, environmental scientists, transportation planners, community organizations, and residents, to ensure that the proposed solutions are equitable, effective, and aligned with the city's long-term goals for sustainability and public health.

Yours In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Vasquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Andre Vasquez
Alderman, 40th Ward