

Housing
Real Estate

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Chicago Housing Authority ("CHA") is the largest landlord in the City, providing housing and assistance to approximately 135,000 Chicago residents across 65,000 households, including tens of thousands of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, approximately 35% of CHA residents identify as persons with disabilities, a figure that likely underrepresents the actual number of residents who may require reasonable accommodations; and

WHEREAS, recent reporting has detailed allegations that CHA may have failed over a period of years to provide reasonable accommodations to residents with disabilities, including wheelchair-accessible housing units; and

WHEREAS, one such example is the \$525,000 settlement paid by CHA to resolve a lawsuit alleging failure to provide reasonable alternative housing conditions to a resident and her late daughter, who had a progressive neurological disease and required accessible housing; and

WHEREAS, moreover, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") has previously found CHA to be in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, leading to CHA and HUD negotiating a voluntary compliance agreement to address disability-related deficiencies; and

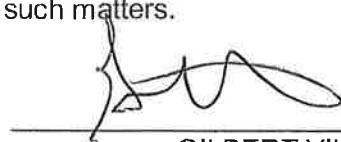
WHEREAS, most recently, a senior CHA compliance official filed a complaint alleging systemic failures in the handling of reasonable accommodation requests and potential retaliation after raising concerns internally; and

WHEREAS, making matters worse, CHA has been without a permanent Chief Executive Officer for more than one year, and residents have expressed ongoing concerns regarding accessibility, compliance, and oversight due to this ongoing lack of permanent leadership; and

WHEREAS, as the legislative body of the City, the City Council has the both the implied power and express statutory authority to engage in legislative oversight of matters affecting the City's residents, including through the Committee on Housing and Real Estate's jurisdiction over "the City's housing agencies"; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby call upon the Committee on Housing and Real Estate to convene a subject matter hearing to examine CHA's compliance with federal disability laws, including, but not limited to, its handling of reasonable accommodation requests, the status of the pending voluntary compliance agreement with HUD, and any corrective measures undertaken by CHA in response to these issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives from CHA with knowledge of the foregoing appear before the Committee to provide testimony regarding such matters.



GILBERT VILLEGAS
Alderman, 36th Ward