ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Chapter 4-4 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by adding a new Section 4-4-315, as follows:

4-4-315 Window restrictions.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no more than twenty-five percent of public-facing window space of any business licensed under Title 4 of this Code may be obstructed. For purposes of this section, public-facing windows shall include any windows that can be seen from the public way. Windows shall be considered obstructed by a sign if a sign is affixed to either the interior or exterior of a public-facing window. Windows shall be considered obstructed by any other items if those items are placed in such a way that does not allow views of indoor commercial space or product display areas. For purposes of this section, the term "sign" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Section 13-20-510.

(b) Any business that fails to obtain a sign permit as required by Section 13-20-550 of this Code for a sign to be placed in a public-facing window of such business shall be in violation of this section.

(c) Any business in violation of the window coverage requirements under Section 17-12-1003-E of this Code shall be in violation of this section.

(d) Signs exclusively listing the hours of operation and signs required under Title 4 or Title 7 of this Code or by state or federal law shall not be counted towards the amount of public-facing window that is obstructed.

(e) All public-facing windows must be clear and non-reflective such that they allow views of indoor commercial space or product display areas from the public way. This subsection (f) shall not apply to children's services facilities licensed under Chapter 4-75 of this Code or to cannabis businesses licensed under the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (410 ILCS 705/).

(f) No business licensed under Title 4 of this Code shall place lights on a public-facing window of such business in such a way that any single side, or all four sides, of such public-facing window appears to be framed or otherwise outlined by lights.

(g) The Commissioner is authorized to issue a written removal order for any signs, window tinting, or other items that violate the requirements of this section. The removal order shall list the date by which the signs, window tinting, or other items must be removed. If a removal order is issued, no fine shall accrue until after the expiration of the removal order. The Commissioner may promulgate rules that state when issuance of a written removal order is mandatory as well as any other rules necessary to implement this section.

(h) In addition to the Commissioner, the Department of Buildings and the Chicago Police Department are authorized to enforce this section.

(i) Any person who violates this section shall be fined not less than $200 nor more than $500 for each offense. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take full force and effect after passage and publication.