

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in the United States, with more than 350,000 cardiac arrests occurring outside of a hospital setting each year – with approximately 74% of those happening in residences and approximately 11% in nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, in these situations, time is critical and is often the difference between life and death – indeed, a person's chance of survival decreases by between 7% and 10% for every minute without defibrillation; and

WHEREAS, automatic external defibrillators (AED) are small, portable devices that analyze a person's heart rhythm and prompt the user to deliver electric shocks following simple audio voice and text prompts, and have been proven safe, accurate, and effective; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Heart Association, survival to hospital discharge after EMS-treated cardiac arrest is approximately 10% – as compared to a survival rate of approximately 90% when receiving a shock from an AED within the first minute; and

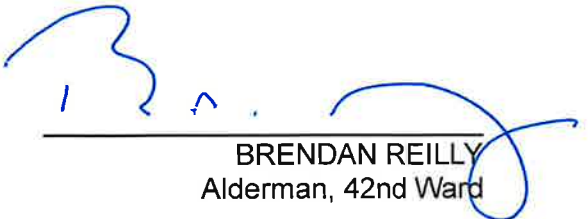
WHEREAS, under State law, AEDs are currently required in public schools, fitness centers, horse racing facilities, police departments, and, under the recently enacted Public Act 104-0172, nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Housing Authority oversees 52 senior developments, comprised of 65 buildings and nearly 10,000 units; and

WHEREAS, the City and the CHA must work together to ensure that AEDs are located in senior buildings and that CHA and applicable City staff are properly trained in using AEDs to give our senior residents every chance of survival when every minute counts; 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 Health and Human Relations to convene a subject matter hearing regarding the installation of automatic external defibrillators at all Chicago Housing Authority senior buildings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the Commissioner of Public Health, the Commissioner of Family and Support Services, and representatives from the Chicago Housing Authority to attend such hearing and provide testimony.


BRENDAN REILLY
Alderman, 42nd Ward