

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUBJECT MATTER HEARING ON THE BARRIERS TO
HOUSING FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN CHICAGO**

WHEREAS, many immigrant and refugees in Chicago face barriers to accessing safe, affordable, and stable housing, including but not limited to discrimination, language barriers, limited documentation impacting access to typical financial instruments and resources, and lack of access to culturally competent housing assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, these barriers can and do exacerbate housing insecurity among immigrant and refugee populations, leading to less than ideal living conditions, homelessness, and displacement, which undermine the health, well-being, and stability of individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, housing instability among immigrant and refugee communities not only impacts the individuals and families directly affected but also has broader implications for the economy and social fabric of Chicago, including reduced economic success, increased use of social services, and heightened social tensions; and

WHEREAS, addressing the housing needs of immigrant and refugee communities is essential for fostering inclusive and resilient neighborhoods, promoting economic growth and social cohesion, and upholding the principles of equity and justice in our city; and

WHEREAS, immigrant and refugee communities contribute significantly to the cultural diversity, economic vitality, and social vibrancy of Chicago, and ensuring their access to safe and affordable housing is critical for fostering a thriving and inclusive city for all residents; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive understanding of the barriers to housing faced by immigrant and refugee communities in Chicago is necessary to develop effective policies and strategies to address these challenges and promote equitable access to housing for all residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Chicago hereby acknowledges the urgent need to address the barriers to housing for new and long-standing immigrant and refugee communities in our city; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council affirms its commitment to advancing policies and initiatives that promote housing equity, affordability, and stability for all residents, regardless of immigration status, nationality, or background; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council calls for a subject matter hearing to further explore the barriers to housing faced by immigrant and refugee communities in Chicago, inviting experts, advocacy groups, and community members to provide insights and recommendations

for effective investigative measures potentially including but not limited to: the establishment of a task force or working group to develop recommendations for policy reforms and initiatives, and/or that the City Council directs relevant city departments, including the Departments of Housing and Family and Support Services the Commission on Human Relations, to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the housing needs and challenges faced by immigrant and refugee communities in Chicago, including data collection, analysis, and community engagement efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Vasquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "V" and "Q".

Andre Vasquez
Alderman, 40th Ward