

SUBSTITUTE
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, For decades, certain towing companies have preyed on innocent Chicagoans through the practice of “rogue towing” – where towing companies swarm to the scene of a crash or disabled vehicle, without proper dispatch or contact, using strong-arm tactics to coerce unsuspecting victims to agreeing to have their vehicle towed with essentially zero transparency regarding fees and impound procedures, leaving residents confused and possibly on the hook for exorbitant fees; and

WHEREAS, In addition to rogue towing, these companies have engaged in other illegal business practices, such as hiring unlicensed drivers, relocating cars in private lots without the property owner's consent, and relocating cars that are serviced by other towing companies; and

WHEREAS, These predatory towing companies also tend to engage in outright disrespectful behavior to our residents, from needlessly mocking and making fun of them or hanging up on them, to accusing people of being drunk when trying to retrieve their cars and even physically attacking owners when they are trying to stop their cars from being towed; and

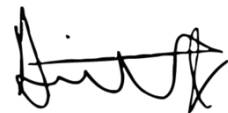
WHEREAS, These towing companies attempt to profit by doing everything they can to make a dollar off the misery of others, often using rogue towing to take advantage of the elderly and the disabled; and

WHEREAS, Each of us have heard the agonizing stories of residents being taken advantage of by unsolicited, rogue tow truck companies; and

WHEREAS, Residents who have to deal with rogue towing are often in a time of need and vulnerable, which is why it is critical that the City take the necessary steps to protect them from these predatory practices; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the City Council, call upon the Committee on License and Consumer Protection to hold a subject matter hearing to determine the extent of the rogue towing in Chicago and discuss potential City-level solutions, including potential legislative changes and stronger enforcement processes, to protect our residents from predatory towing practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we request that a representative from the Cook County States Attorney, and call upon the Superintendent of Police, the Commissioner of the Department of Streets and Sanitation, the Commissioner of the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, or their respective designees, to attend such hearing and provide information and testimony regarding the predatory practices of rogue towing companies, current policies and enforcement processes to protect our residents, and potential City-level solutions to protect our residents from such practices.



GILBERT VILLEGAS
Alderman, 36th Ward