

ORDER

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago (the “City”) is a municipal corporation and home rule unit of government under Article VII, Section 6(a) of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, Pursuant to its home rule authority, the City of Chicago may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs including protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, The financial welfare and stability of the City of Chicago’s citizens and its investments must be a guiding priority of the Mayor and Members of the City Council; and,

WHEREAS, It has been discovered that under former Mayor Lori Lightfoot Administration, in furtherance of the City’s status of being a “Welcoming City”, allowed the Chicago taxpayer-funded Department of Law to begin providing *pro bono* legal services and paying associated court costs to noncitizen migrants while not availing the same services and financial support to its own residents and employees of the municipal corporation; and,

WHEREAS, The aforementioned services concern the Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago for several reasons, mainly, the individuals said services are being offered to are not being vetted and very well could be violent criminals, endangering the lives of our residents; and,

WHEREAS, It has been discovered that Barnes & Thornburg LLP, a law firm that is not registered to do business in the state of Illinois, has been representing potentially hundreds of noncitizens that have illegally crossed the border over the past several years with respect to *pro bono* legal proceedings billed to and paid for by the City of Chicago Department of Law through its outside counsel program under the general description of “Immigration Services”; and,

WHEREAS, Barnes & Thornburg LLP is likely one of many law firms billing the City of Chicago at a rate of \$295 per hour to provide said services, and sometimes up to, if not more than, \$1,440 per court filing fee; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago does not offer said services to its very own tax paying residents, in particular, the city does not offer said services to its own African American, Latino, senior citizens and/or low-income residents; and,

WHEREAS, Based on hundreds of pages of invoices provided through a Freedom of Information Act request included herein as Exhibit A, the City of Chicago's Department of Law has redacted the names of the noncitizens that it is representing, making it impossible to determine whether these individuals are criminals or not, and has not released the remaining unredacted invoicing for other firms being utilized by the city for the same services; and,

WHEREAS, In order for the City Council of the City of Chicago, on behalf of city taxpayers, to gain a better prospective for the amount of money, time, billable hours, filing fees and general nature of matters and background of individuals being represented, it is prudent for this body to further investigate the matter; and,

WHEREAS, Further endangering the residents of the City Clerk of the City of Chicago has introduced and passed legislation to create a municipal identification card "for any person who applies" for said identification card regardless of immigration status requiring that the "Clerk shall keep all information submitted by an Applicant for a City of Chicago ID confidential" impeding law enforcement's ability to arrest and prosecute violent and dangerous criminals in our communities, including sexual predators to minors and member of foreign gangs such as *Tren De Aragua* and *MS-13*; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, That the Corporation Counsel and the Department of Law, Chief Procurement Officer and the Department of Procurement Services, and/or all other appropriate City of Chicago corporate officers, cease doing business with Barnes & Thornburg LLP; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, That the Corporation Counsel and the Department of Law, shall immediately terminate any outside counsel agreements providing taxpayer-funded legal services to noncitizens on behalf of the Department of Law under the general description of "Immigration Services;" and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, That the Chicago City Clerk immediately cease issuing the municipal identification cards until a comprehensive review of the program's benefit to all Chicagoans can be evaluated.

James Madigan (45)
Silviana Dubas
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