

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City has a fiduciary obligation to safeguard taxpayer resources and to ensure that individuals and entities doing business with the City comply with all applicable financial obligations owed to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City regularly enters into contracts, development agreements, property transactions, zoning approvals, and economic development incentive arrangements with private individuals and entities; and

WHEREAS, unpaid fines, fees, taxes, utility charges, loans, mortgages, and other obligations owed to the City, commonly referred to as "scofflaw" debts, represent lost public revenue and undermine public confidence in municipal governance; and

WHEREAS, recent investigative reporting by the *Chicago Sun-Times* has raised serious concerns regarding the City's handling and disclosure of substantial outstanding debts owed by individuals seeking to do business with the City, including in connection with development activity near the Obama Presidential Center in the Woodlawn community area; and

WHEREAS, the report described circumstances in which a developer who owes millions of dollars to the City was permitted to advance through the development approval process without clear disclosure of those outstanding debts to the City Council or the public prior to key approvals; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Desmon Yancy of the 5th Ward has publicly stated that full disclosure of outstanding debts owed to the City would have materially affected his consideration of the development proposal at issue; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance is responsible for identifying, tracking, and collecting debts owed to the City of Chicago, and the Department of Planning and Development plays a central role in evaluating and advancing development proposals and other business arrangements involving City interests; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has a duty to conduct oversight and to ensure that City departments operate in a transparent, coordinated, and fiscally responsible manner when evaluating individuals and entities seeking to do business with the City; 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 Finance to convene a subject matter hearing to explain the City's policies and procedures for identifying, disclosing, and collecting outstanding debts owed to the City by individuals or entities seeking to do business with the City, including the manner in which such information is communicated to the City during the review and approval of development proposals, contracts, property transactions, and economic incentive agreements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives from the Department of Finance and Department of Planning and Development shall be invited to appear before the subject matter hearing to testify.

DESMON C. YANCY
Alderman, 5th Ward