

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago recognizes that substance use disorder is a complex public health crisis that requires evidence-based, compassionate interventions rather than punitive measures that exacerbate the cycle of incarceration and trauma; and

WHEREAS, Harm Reduction is a proactive and evidence-based approach to public health that engages directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission while improving the physical, mental, and social well-being of the individual without requiring abstinence as a prerequisite for care; and

WHEREAS, we must humanize the experience of our neighbors struggling with addiction, recognizing them as parents, children, and valued community members whose lives possess inherent worth and who deserve a holistic path to healing and sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, Chicago continues to face an unprecedented overdose epidemic, with over 2,000 residents lost annually to preventable opioid-related deaths, disproportionately impacting Black and Brown communities on the West and South Sides due to systemic disinvestment; and

WHEREAS, these public health challenges are compounded by social determinants of health, including deep-seated poverty and the looming threat of federal austerity measures and cuts to social safety nets under the current presidential administration, which threaten to strip healthcare access from our most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS)—also known as supervised consumption sites—provide a hygienic, medically supervised environment where individuals can use pre-obtained drugs under the care of trained professionals who can immediately reverse overdoses and provide "warm handoffs" to counseling, housing, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, OnPoint NYC has served as a primary national model for this intervention, demonstrating that such sites can exist as "Care Hubs" that improve public order by reducing public drug use and syringe litter; and

WHEREAS, the impact of OnPoint NYC is undeniable, having successfully intervened in over 2,100 potential overdose deaths last year alone, ensuring thousands of individuals returned home to their families and remained connected to their communities; and

WHEREAS, State Representative La Shawn Ford has introduced critical legislation to authorize the creation of an Overdose Prevention Site on the West Side of Chicago, a measure that recently passed out of the State House Committee on Mental Health & Addiction; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby formally express our full support for Representative La Shawn Ford's HB 2929 that amends The Substance Use Disorder Act to authorize and fund Overdose Prevention Sites in the State of Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council urges the Illinois General Assembly—both the House and the Senate—to move swiftly in passing this life-saving legislation to provide all

levels of government with the legal framework and resources necessary to implement these vital public health tools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be delivered to the Governor of Illinois, the President of the Illinois Senate, and the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives as a testament to the City of Chicago's commitment to safety, wellness, and the preservation of life.

1. *Let* (4) *6th*

2. *A* (20th) - co-chief sponsor

3. *W. G. H.* (27)

4. *A. Long* (48th)

5. *Jimmy* (12)

6. *Mike* (11th)

7. *W. G. H.* (46)

8. *Anna Miller* (37)

9. *Pat Dowell* (3rd)

10. *Matt GMA* (47th)

11. *Bea Carr* (34)

12. *R. Lawrence* (44) *Ruth G* (30)

13. *Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez* (33)

14. *Matthew J. Dwyer* (24)

15. *John* (25)

16. *M. Hadden* (49)

17. *John* (14)

18. *John* (48)

19. *John* (20th)

20. *MDM* (22)

21. *CLC T-G* (29)

22. *Scott Wagner* (22)

23. *John* (36th)

24. *T. K. H.* (43)