

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, parking violations are a matter of municipal regulation and enforcement, primarily to ensure the safety, accessibility, and efficiency of public spaces; and

WHEREAS, involving sworn police officers in non-urgent, non-criminal matters such as parking enforcement may divert critical law enforcement resources away from immediate public safety crises; and

WHEREAS, despite the City and the Chicago Police Department's ongoing efforts to recruit and hire officers to fill hundreds of vacant budgeted positions, the Department has maintained a force of around 11,700 sworn officers for the past three years; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that resources are effectively allocated to address the city's most pressing safety concerns, such as reducing the number of shootings, robberies, burglaries, and vehicular hijackings, including reducing homicides to fewer than 500 this year, it is critical that we strategically deploy sworn police officers to where they are most needed; and

WHEREAS, 10% of the calls answered by police in Chicago's 19th Police District are related to parking violations, and transitioning these responsibilities to alternate responders could free up valuable time for officers to address higher-priority public safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Policing Project at NYU School of Law's 2024 report, *Reimagining Public Safety in Chicago*, reveals that the Chicago Police Department responds to over 125,000 calls annually regarding parking violations, recovering stolen vehicles, and towing abandoned cars, which equates to approximately 10% of the department's total call volume; and

WHEREAS, community members have expressed frustration over parking violations not being adequately addressed or prioritized, and implementing alternative enforcement strategies could enhance responsiveness by providing more timely and effective resolution to these concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance currently responds to various parking violations across the city, demonstrating the feasibility of using civilian personnel for these tasks and providing a foundation to expand alternative enforcement strategies; and

WHEREAS, other major cities across the country have successfully adopted strategies that utilize civilian personnel to enforce parking violations and issue citations, including New York, NY; Portland, OR; and San Francisco, CA; and

WHEREAS, utilizing alternative enforcement personnel for parking violations can potentially foster greater trust within the community by addressing frustrations related to slow officer response times, which often lead to a diminished sense of trust in the police; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to engage the appropriate stakeholders, including relevant City Departments, elected officials, and local and national experts on alternative response strategies, to initiate a conversation within the City Council about how Chicago can explore and implement alternative approaches to policing for addressing parking violations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council for the City of Chicago, do hereby call upon the Committee on Public Safety to hold one or more hearings to which 19th Police District Council members and other relevant stakeholders will be invited to present their findings and begin conversations to implement an alternative response model specifically for parking violations, including identifying the necessary steps and key stakeholders to involve in this process to build a path forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt J. Martin", with a horizontal line underneath.

Matthew J. Martin
Alderman, 47th Ward