

PUB

Resolution Calling for Next Generation Safety Measures on CTA

WHEREAS, the Chicago Transit Authority ("CTA") is essential to connecting residents, workers, students, and visitors while supporting the economic vitality of the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, a safe, reliable, and well-maintained public transit system encourages greater ridership, reduces dependence on personal automobiles, supports environmental sustainability, and contributes to a healthier and more connected Chicago; and

WHEREAS, fostering a safe, welcoming, and accessible transit system requires thoughtful investments in both public safety and modern infrastructure that improve the rider experience and encourage greater use of public transportation; and

WHEREAS, recent deployments of the Cook County Sheriff's Police at CTA rail stations have been associated with substantial reductions in fare evasion, demonstrating that a visible public safety presence can improve compliance, support transit operations, and enhance rider confidence; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Rapid Transit ("BART") system has successfully implemented Next Generation Fare Gates utilizing durable polycarbonate barriers that have reduced fare evasion, increased fare revenue, and enhanced station operations; and

WHEREAS, modern fare gate technology has the potential to improve system reliability, support financial sustainability, and complement the work of transit employees and public safety personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 22nd day of July, 2026, encourage the Chicago Transit Authority to evaluate the feasibility of installing Next Generation Fare Gates, including polycarbonate barrier technology similar to that employed by BART, throughout CTA rail stations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CTA is encouraged to identify available funding opportunities and consider prioritizing implementation at stations where such improvements would best enhance safety, accessibility, fare compliance, rider confidence, and the long-term financial sustainability of Chicago's public transit system.


BRIAN HOPKINS
Alderman, 2nd Ward