

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago Violence Reduction Dashboard demonstrates domestic homicide victimizations have increased by 33% through May 18, 2025 (year over year); domestic non-fatal shooting victimizations have not declined; and domestic criminal sexual assault victimizations have increased by 8%; and,

WHEREAS, reported incidents of domestic aggravated battery have increased dramatically over the last decade, from 2,045 reported incidents in 2014 and 2,291 incidents in 2015, to 3,062 in 2018 and 3,344 in 2019; 3,113 in 2020; 3,107 in 2021; 2,870 in 2022; 3,325 in 2023, and 3,345 reported domestic aggravated battery incidents in 2024; and,

WHEREAS, more than half of survivors of domestic violence did not go to law enforcement for help or to report the crime in 2023, according to the annual federal crime victimization study by the Department of Justice; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline received 16,123 contacts from the City of Chicago in 2023, which demonstrates a 26% increase from 2022 and a 52% increase from pre-pandemic 2019; and,

WHEREAS, for 124 days – more than one third of the year – there were no beds or cribs at domestic violence shelters in Chicago, according to The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence; and,

WHEREAS, the City funds a number of gender-based violence programs to support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking; and prevent future violence via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which will expire in the very near future and require further budget obligations and expenditures from the City; and,

WHEREAS, ARPA-funded programs include the Emergency Fund for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Survivors (completed 50% or more, \$5,000,000 adopted budget as of Q1 2024, and \$10,000,000 adopted budget as of Q1 2025); and,

WHEREAS, ARPA-funded programs include Gender-based violence Victim Services to Young People (completed 50% or more, \$5,000,000 adopted budget as of both Q1 2024 and Q1 2025); and,

WHEREAS, ARPA-funded programs include Rapid Rehousing Services for Gender-Based Violence Survivors (completed less than 50%, \$4,638,000 adopted budget as of Q1 2024 and \$4,462,000 adopted budget as of Q1 2025); and,

WHEREAS, Rapid Rehousing Services for Gender-Based Violence Survivors served 257 survivor-led households in 2024, who were most often Black women between ages 25 and 44; and,

WHEREAS, ARPA-funded programs include Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Education, and Training (completed less than 50%, \$1,225,000 adopted budget in both Q1 2024 and Q1 2025), to train City front line staff and the public on gender-based violence; and, has more than \$600,000 in unspent funds; and,

WHEREAS, ARPA-funded programs also include nearly completed projects, such as Legal Services for Gender-Based Violence Survivors (89.6% of a \$4.1 million budget spent) to support survivors in obtaining protective orders, participating in criminal cases as victim witnesses and getting accommodations at school or work; and,

WHEREAS, ARPA-funded programs to address Gender-Based Violence total \$25,000,000 over the period of the grants, demonstrating a substantial budgeting need for continued GBV services and prevention programming in future City budgets; and,

WHEREAS, the increase in domestic incidents of violent crime, the positive impact of survivors accessing services at community-based providers in the City, as well as the sunsetting of American Rescue Plan Act funds, demonstrates the need for City Council to take action to establish long-term funding sources for expanded GBV services and violence prevention efforts; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, that we the City Council, gathered this 21st day of May 2025, do hereby call upon the Committee of Health and Human Relations to hold a hearing on the implementation of gender-based violence services and prevention programming in Chicago.


Daniel La Spata
Alderman, 1st Ward