

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, streaming music services have become the dominant method of music consumption, accounting for 84 percent of total recorded music revenue in the United States in 2022, according to the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA); and

WHEREAS, revenue from paid subscription services has grown for seven consecutive years and reached \$10.2 billion in 2022; and

WHEREAS, there were more than 1.9 trillion songs streamed on demand in 2022; and

WHEREAS, a *Business Insider* report from 202 found recording artists earn a royalty rate as little as \$0.0033 per stream; and

WHEREAS, at the rate of \$0.0033 per stream, it would take more than 474,000 monthly streams for a recording artist to earn the Chicago minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, musicians often struggle to make reliable income and face a volatile employment situation; and

WHEREAS, a 2022 report by the University of Illinois estimates that nearly 2,500 musicians are working in Chicago and that Chicago is among the top four cities nationwide for the number of working musicians; and

WHEREAS, musicians make substantial contributions to Chicago's culture and tourism industry, and

WHEREAS, on September 30th, 2025 Congresswoman Tlaib, joined by her colleagues Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, Congresswoman McIver, Congresswoman Omar, Congresswoman Ramirez, and Congressman Thompson introduced the Living Wage for Musicians Act of 2025, which would create a new streaming royalty with the aim to compensate artists and musicians more fairly at a minimum of a penny per stream when their music plays on a streaming service; and

WHEREAS, The Living Wage for Musicians Act of 2025 would direct a portion of streaming platforms' subscription and non-subscription revenue to a non-profit distribution fund that would pay artists proportionately to their monthly streams; and

WHEREAS, the Living Wage for Musicians Act of 2025 would generate more sustainable income for a broader and more diverse set of artists; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chicago City Council calls on the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Living Wage for Musicians Act of 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel La Spata". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'L'.

Daniel La Spata
Alderman, 1st Ward