

ANDRE VASQUEZ
ALDERPERSON, 40TH WARD

5620 NORTH WESTERN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659
PHONE: 773-654-1867

CONTACT US: 40THWARD.ORG/CONTACT



CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL

★
CITY HALL, ROOM 25
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
PHONE: 312-744-6858

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

(CHAIRPERSON)

TRANSPORTATION

(VICE-CHAIRPERSON)

BUDGET

COMMITTEES AND RULES

PUBLIC SAFETY

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WAY

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

COMMITTEE LETTER : R2023-0001022

July 25, 2023

To the President and Members of the City Council:

Your Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights, having had under consideration R2023-0001022 introduced by Alderperson Vasquez concerning monthly hearings on City's plans and processes to address migrant and refugee arrivals, begs leave to recommend that Your Honorable Body pass the proposed resolution transmitted herewith.

This recommendation was concurred via voice vote of the members of the committee present on June 28, 2023 with no dissenting votes.

On motion of Alderperson Fuentes, the said proposed resolution transmitted was Passed by yeas and nays as follows:

Yeas -- Alderpersons Vasquez, Taylor, Dowell, Gutierrez, Rodriguez, Fuentes, Taliaferro, Cruz, Cardona, Ramirez-Rosa, Knudsen, Manaa-Hoppenworth, Hadden.

Nays -- None.

The following is said ordinance as passed:

WHEREAS, Chicago, as city was founded in 1780 by John Baptiste Pointe DuSable on indigenous land belonging to the Potawatomi, Odawa, and Ijibwe or the Three Fires Confederacy, and

WHEREAS, in 1985 Mayor Harold Washington issued an Executive Order prohibiting City employees from enforcing federal immigration laws and halting the City's practice of asking job and driver's license applicants about their citizenship status and,

WHEREAS, in 2006 Mayor Richard J. Daley and the Chicago City Council reaffirmed the

Executive Order and then voted the order into law per the municipal code and,

WHEREAS, in 2012 Mayor Rahm Emanuel introduced the Welcoming City Ordinance to ensure that Chicago is a sanctuary city for immigrants seeking refugee and,

WHEREAS, in 2022 Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the City Council voted to further expand the protections in the Welcoming City Ordinance and,

WHEREAS, in 2022 asylum seekers who came into the United States via Texas came to be bussed and flown into Chicago by it's Republican Governor Greg Abbot, and

WHEREAS, since that time over 11,000 refugees have been sent to Chicago, with over 500 of them, men, women, and children being left with no option other than to live and sleep in every police station in the City of Chicago, and,

WHEREAS, the Chicago Department of Health, the Office of Emergency Management and Coordination, the Department of Family Support Services, Department of Housing, and the Mayor's Office are working to establish shelter, support services, and a Welcoming infrastructure in Chicago, and

WHEREAS, Chicago, not having proper Welcoming or Transitional infrastructure to support the influx of refugees, has relied on the organization and work of Mutual Aid Networks comprised of volunteer neighbors to provide meals, clothing, blankets, and other resources for months, and,

WHEREAS, the State Legislature and Federal Government have provided minimum support, both financial and legislative, to Chicago to build the necessary staff and shelter support system, and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to know what work is being done, what funds are being invested, and what the opportunities to support both the newest refugee arrivals and the existing marginalized communities and populations, therefor
Committee on Immigration and Refugee Rights

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled here on this 21st day of June, 2023, do hereby call for monthly hearings of the Committee on Immigration and Refugee Rights to receive updates on what the Johnson Administration and its City department plans and processes are, on what the neighbor-led volunteer mutual aid network is supporting, and what progress is being made at the State and Federal level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be prepared and presented to the Chair of the Committee of Immigration and Refugee Rights for immediate adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Vasquez', written in a cursive style.

Alderperson Andre Vasquez
Chair