

RESOLUTION

**“Call for Hearings to Discuss the Chicago Department of Public Health’s
Plans to Combat Misinformation Regarding Public Health”**

WHEREAS, federal public health policies are crucial to our nation’s health and safety because – at their best – they guide and assist States and local governments in addressing health issues on a national scale, provide best practices for disease prevention, and help address health disparities as well as providing funding which is integral in preventing widespread illness and promoting a healthy populace; and

WHEREAS, despite the importance of these policies, the current Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Robert Kennedy, has a history of repeating and amplifying un-scientific and disproven conspiracies, including anti-vaccine rhetoric, racist remarks about Black people’s immune systems, and other false medical claims; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Kennedy has previously proposed that Black people should follow a different vaccine schedule because – he claims – their immune systems are stronger than white people’s, echoing racist medical tropes that suggest Black people are biologically different from others; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Kennedy has previously proposed correlations between vaccination and autism, a claim that has been disproved by the scientific community; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Kennedy has previously proposed correlations between fluoride additives in drinking water and arthritis and bone cancer, a claim that has been disproved by the scientific community, but has already resulted in the elimination of fluoride additives in Florida’s drinking water; and

WHEREAS, this misinformation about public health deteriorates the public trust in our government and public health systems, and it is imperative that the City seeks guidance from the State, County, public health experts, and scientists, rather than follow policies that are informed by conspiracy and racism; and

WHEREAS, while the City of Chicago will continue to comply with the requirements of federal grants, the City has a responsibility to adopt and implement evidence-based public health policy to safeguard all of our residents; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, do hereby call on the Committee on Health and Human Relations to hold a subject matter hearing with the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health to discuss the City’s plans for public health education, pursuing public health grants from the federal and State government as well as any other source, and the Department’s relationship with the State of Illinois and Cook County to improve our public health systems.


NAME

Alderperson, Ward

Anthony J. Quezada, 35