

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The United States of America Citizenship and Immigration Services permits the issuance of U-Visa status to undocumented individuals who are victims of certain crimes, suffered mental or physical abuse, and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity; and,

WHEREAS, The federal legislation was intended to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies, such as the Chicago Police Department, to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking of noncitizens and other crimes, while also protecting victims of crimes who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse due to the crime and are willing to help law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity; and,

WHEREAS, The United States of America Citizenship and Immigration Services considers the following to be qualifying Criminal Activities as suitable grounds for eligibility: abduction, abusive sexual contact, blackmail, domestic violence, extortion, false imprisonment, female genital mutilation, felonious assault, fraud in foreign labor contracting, hostage, incest, involuntary servitude, kidnapping, manslaughter, murder, obstruction of justice, peonage, perjury, prostitution, rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, slave trade, stalking torture, trafficking, witness tampering unlawful criminal restrain! and other substantially similar crimes; and,

WHEREAS, The Chicago Police Department's Records Inquiry Section (Unit 163) is responsible for the adjudication of U-Visa applications submitted to the department and does not track certification applications submitted, approved and/or rejected by the unit; now, therefore,

WHEREAS, According to a recent report by *Injustice Watch*, the Police Department has denied at least 800 certifications in the last two years as opposed to Los Angeles and New York City denied less than 350 and 150 request in 2021 respectively; and,

WHEREAS, The City Council of The City of Chicago have reaffirmed its commitment on numerous times to be a Welcoming City to those undocumented individuals seeking refuge from the harms of their homeland; now therefore,

BE IT ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, that the Committee on Police and Fire and the Committee on Immigration & Refugee Rights hold joint hearings with the Chicago Police Department to discuss the status of U Nonimmigrant Status certifications within the City of Chicago, its policies and protocols for approval or denial, the

collection of data, and the ability of the department to genuinely assist those most vulnerable needing our assistance in accessing a federal certification.

Raymond A. Lopez
Alderman, 15th Ward