



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

February 13, 2026

Office of the City Clerk
Anna Valencia, City Clerk
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602

Chicago City Clerk-Council Div.
2026 FEB 13 PM3:22

To the Honorable, The City Council of the City of Chicago and City Clerk Valencia:

I return herewith, without my approval, an ordinance passed by the City Council on January 21, 2026 (SO2025-0021018), regarding the regulation of cannabinoid hemp products.

This ordinance is premature. The most responsible path forward for the City's hemp regulation is to align with the forthcoming federal guidance, rather than acting prematurely in a rapidly shifting regulatory landscape. With preliminary federal rules forthcoming, it is essential that the City position itself to respond coherently once national standards are clarified.

In addition, this ordinance does not create a balanced regulatory framework for hemp regulation. Any local hemp regulatory framework needs to both safeguard the health and wellbeing of residents, especially young people, support the stability and growth of Chicago's small business community, and ensure that the enforcing departments have adequate capacity to conduct equitable enforcement. The City must balance public health priorities with economic considerations in a thoughtful, evidence informed way that avoids unnecessary disruption for consumers, retailers, and entrepreneurs.

For the above-stated reasons, I believe it is my duty to veto this ordinance. Madam Clerk, please read this letter at the February 18, 2026, City Council meeting under the heading of "Reports and communications from the Mayor and other City officers."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Johnson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brandon Johnson
Mayor