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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS
(CHAIRPERSON)

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WAY
(VICE-CHAIRPERSON)

BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEES AND RULES

ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

FINANCE

FINANCE: SUBCOMMITTEE ON REVENUE

PUBLIC SAFETY

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS
MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT : JULY 2024

Pursuant to Rule 45 of the City of Chicago Rules of Order, the **Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights** submits the following Monthly Report for July 2024.

LEGISLATION

PASSED

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--|
| SR2023-0001265 | Referred 06/21/2023 | Call for hearing(s) with Chicago Police Department regarding status of U Nonimmigrant Status certifications, policies for approval/denial and collection of data |
| SR2024-0007367 | Referred 01/24/2024 | Call for U.S. President Biden and Secretary of Homeland Security to process requests for temporary protective status to Ecuadorian citizens migrating to United States |
| R2024-0008935 | Referred 04/17/2024 | Call for hearing(s) to explore and address implications of climate change-induced migration to Chicago |

REPORTS AND MATERIALS RECEIVED BY COMMITTEE

1. July 2 Committee Meeting / Subject Matter Hearing Revised Notice, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights;
 2. July 2 Committee Meeting / Subject Matter Hearing Agenda, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights;
 3. March 2024 Rule 45 Report, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights;
 4. Rule 41 Failure to Report Request : R2023-0001265 and R2024-0007367, provided by Alderperson Lopez;
 5. R2023-0001265, provided by Alderperson Lopez;
 6. SR2023-0001265, provided by Alderperson Lopez;
 7. R2024-0007367, provided by Alderperson Lopez;
 8. SR2024-0007367, provided by Alderperson Lopez;
 9. R2024-0008935, provided by Alderperson Vasquez;
 10. 'Indigenous Ecuadorians: Challenges and Advocacy for TPS' presentation, provided by Edith Freeze, Pachacamak Folk Foundation;
 11. 'Climate Migrants and Receiving Communities' presentation, provided by Dr. Anne Junod and Dr. Rachel Drew;
 12. 'Climate migration: the role of city government' presentation, provided by Dulce Guzmán, Alianza Americas, and Jose Robles, UIC Latino Cultural Center.
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13. July 23 Subject Matter Hearing Notice, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights;
 14. July 23 Subject Matter Hearing Agenda, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights;
 15. July 23 Subject Matter Hearing Written Public Comment, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights;
 16. O2024-0008394, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights;
 17. 'Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights' presentation, provided by the City of Chicago Office of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights, Department of Family & Support Services, and Office of Budget and Management;
 18. 'New Arrivals Testimonies: 60 Day Policy for new arrivals' document, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights;
 19. 'New Arrival Data and Resources' presentation, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT

In order of date received.

1. From the Sanctuary Working Group Coordinating Team Leadership Members :

*TO: Mayor Brandon Johnson and the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights
The Sanctuary Working Group (SWG), a solidarity organization, comprised of 40 non-profit organizations and faith communities, supports and accompanies vulnerable migrants in their journey towards sustainable independence.*

The SWG supports numerous migrant families who have lived in the Chicago shelter system, many of who have faced traumatic evictions. The SWG requests that Chicago's 60 day limited stay policy be dropped and that a more humane extension period be implemented.

The SWG echoes the below statement put forth by the City of Chicago Latino Caucus:

In CHICAGO – On June 10th, the City's new arrival shelters began to evict families with children from its shelters, in accordance with the Mayor Johnson's 60-day Limited Stay Policy, which held off on evicting this population en masse until the school year ended. With an uptick in reports of new arrivals sheltering in parks and on the streets, we need answers regarding the ways in which the combined money for fiscal year 2024 from the City, State and County– \$230M, \$182M, and \$70M respectively– are being used.

City Council approved the extra \$70M from the reserve fund balance in April of this year on top of the \$150M budgeted for FY24 because the Johnson Administration gave its commitment in preventing unnecessary homelessness and displacement of new arrivals. In addition, the City applied on Wednesday for an additional \$34.1M of FEMA Shelter and Services Program monies to keep up with operational costs.

The SWG echoes the Latino Caucus disappointment to see the intentional underutilization of the new arrival shelters– only 6,937 beds currently filled of the 15,000 that the three municipalities had committed to operating through the end of 2024. The latest information we have received from the Department of Family Support Services states that as of 6/13/24 the city has 806 single adult male beds available, 206 single adult female beds available, and 3,256 family beds available. Rather than bringing Chicago Home, Mayor Johnson is now increasing Chicago's homeless.

The SWG, along with the Latino Caucus, believes that since the City has the capacity to house new arrivals, it should do so with the budget allocations we agreed upon without subjecting them, especially families with kids, to the humiliating and traumatizing experience of repeated eviction. It is clear that the majority, 57%, of those evicted from shelters are still in desperate need of assistance– of the 970 individuals who have been evicted, 554 have returned to the Landing Zone, awaiting placement back into the

shelter system. The fact that the administration believes that evicting people who have no supports or resources out onto the streets in creating “self sufficiency” runs counter to the Mayor’s declared commitment to investing in people.

The members of the Chicago Latino Caucus call upon the Johnson Administration to:

- 1. End it’s 60 day Limited Stay Policy to account for drops in new arrivals and create more humane extension periods*
- 2. Begin to track and report the destinations for new arrivals who have been evicted*
- 3. Brief the Latino Caucus on the City/State/County migrant mission plan including the DNC/summer surge contingency plan*
- 4. Update the New Arrivals Mission Cost Dashboard with projected spending through end of year*

This moment requires responsible and principled leadership that centers those who are marginalized and in need of help. Mayor Johnson has shown this leadership in the past, we need him to show this same leadership NOW.

Sincerely,

Sanctuary Working Group Coordinating Team Leadership Members

- Chris Inserra, Wellington UCC Immigrant Justice Task Force*
- Dan Diaz*
- Darlene Gramigna, Bethany House of Hospitality*
- Fasika Alem, United African Organizations*
- Jacob Dzwonar*
- Karina Solano Suarez, Organized Communities Against Deportation*
- Lina Perez*
- Michael Gosch, Viator House of Hospitality*
- Rev. Sandra Castillo, Episcopal Diocese of Chicago Sanctuary Task Force*

<https://waucc.org/sanctuary-working-group/>

2. From Mark Kuehner, First Immanuel Lutheran Church :

My name is Mark Kuehner and I am a member at First Immanuel Lutheran Church at Roosevelt and Ashland. I have been working with First Immanuel's ministry team to serve asylum seekers in our neighborhood. First Immanuel is also part of a network of dozens of Chicagoland Lutheran churches working to provide spiritual, social, and physical resources for our new neighbors. We take very seriously the loving responsibility given to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have been working hard to provide hot meals, food pantry supplies, clothing, English classes, housing, and other social services to our brothers and sisters seeking a new and better life here in Chicago. We are grateful to the City of Chicago that we are on the same page in so many ways.

But improvements need to be made. I am writing today to call on Mayor Johnson and the City of Chicago to end the 60 day limit on shelters housing asylum seekers. There is no shortage of space. Currently less than half of the 15,000 beds are in use. Evicting the individuals who still need that temporary shelter will increase homelessness. Eviction will make life more difficult to people who have already had to bear so much. Adding an additional hardship will not "teach" anyone self-reliance. Some people will even try to use this situation for political advantage, especially with the Democratic National Convention coming to town next month.

I ask you to do what you can to put an end to the 60 day policy. I ask you to do what you can to support my church and all of the churches and social services agencies that are working hard to provide for our brothers and sisters. I ask you to express your solidarity with our new neighbors seeking asylum.

3. From Lena Stein, The Friendship Center :

Hello, my name is Lena Stein and I am the public benefits manager at The Friendship Center food pantry in Lincoln Square/ Albany Park. I work with new arrivals and Chicago neighbors every day who are staying at shelters, have just found apartments, or are temporarily living with family friends. I assist these parents in getting medical coverage for their children and supplementing their access to food. I see every day how hard these parents work to find jobs, pay rent, and obtain resources for their childrens' wellbeing and happiness. I also see how the conditions of shelters and the stress of losing housing causes children and adults to become physically ill. Even families who have received rental assistance for a limited time are unsure how they will afford Chicago rental prices in areas with community support when this funding runs out. Shelter evictions should not take place and cannot take place without a significant initiative to help new arrivals and asylum seekers to obtain work permits and employment.

Thank you for your time,

*Lena Stein
She/her
Public Benefits Manager*

4. From the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights :

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights is the largest state-based immigrant rights organization in the Midwest. Through our program partners across Illinois, we strive to provide dignified, human-centered case management for all people who need it, regardless of their immigration status or when they entered the country. While ICIRR and our service partners work most closely with immigrant families, we also believe that all people, including those experiencing long-term homelessness, returning citizens, and residents of communities that have faced long-term disinvestment, are

worthy of the same dignity and respect and deserve the services they need to ensure self-sufficiency and the opportunity to thrive.

Since fall 2022, we have been working with both city and state government agencies to provide short term case management services to individuals and families sent to Chicago by bus from the southern border by Texas Governor Abbott. As part of our advocacy, we have called on both the state and city governments to provide resources to support this work, and have asked that they allow community-based partners to provide services at shelters in accordance with our shared welcoming values.

The 60-day eviction policy, unfortunately, puts families on the street at a critical time on their path to self-sufficiency, and makes our already difficult task even harder. It is paramount for agencies like our partners to be able to provide services from shelter locations, which provide needed stability for families as they navigate their new home city. This policy is especially unnecessary while the city has thousands of shelter beds available, and the pace of buses from Texas has slowed down. While we understand that can change, moving forward with evictions while beds are available will hinder the progress that many families have made.

We join many of our partner organizations in asking the city of Chicago, and separately the state of Illinois, to permanently stop the 60-day eviction policy. This step will allow community based partners the opportunity to move more families towards self-sufficiency, and work together on the One System Initiative that will provide all people experiencing homelessness access to the resources they need.

Committee on Immigration on Refugee Rights Subject Matter Hearing

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

New Arrivals Testimonies: 60 Day Policy for New Arrivals

Testimony 1

Mi nombre es [REDACTED] soy de [REDACTED] llegue a Chicago con mi familia hace [REDACTED] y en un refugio.

En este momento cuento con mi permiso de trabajo, seguro social y el ID del Estado. Pero me es imposible encontrar trabajo. Por el motivo de que las compañías requieren experiencia. He asistido a las 3 últimas Ferias de Trabajo, que ha organizado la ciudad o el estado para los recién llegados. Pero cuando llegó a esta ferias me dan un papel para postularse y de allí no hay respuesta inmediata de trabajo. Lo único que encuentro son programas de entrenamiento de 2 meses virtual y presencial para que pueda obtener trabajo en el futuro. Eso me llevaria 2 meses, y en esos 2 meses quien sustenta a mi familia, como me lograria independiza ya que tengo que salir del refugio en 60 días, y no es tiempo suficiente para poder independizar me.

Le pido al Ciudad de Chicago, encarecidamente, como padre de familia, que extienda los 60 días, dependiendo de situacion de cada familia y que organicen dialogos con la companies que necesitan la mano de obra para que las personas que tenemos los documentos puedan obtener un trabajo inmediato para integrarnos a la sociedad y dejar de ser una carga para la ciudad de Chicago y el Estado.

Gracias.

English Translation: Testimony 1

My name is [REDACTED], I am from [REDACTED], I arrived in Chicago with my family [REDACTED] ago and in a shelter.

At this time I have my work permit, social security and State ID. But it's impossible for me to find a job. For this reason, companies require experience. I have attended the last 3 Job Fairs, which have been organized by the city or state for newcomers. But when I arrived at these job fairs they gave me a paper to apply and from there, there was no immediate response for work. The only thing I find are 2-month virtual and in-person training programs so that I can get work in the future. That would take me 2 months, and in those 2 months who supports my family, how would I become independent since I have to leave the shelter in 60 days, and it is not enough time to be able to become independent.

I ask the City of Chicago, emphatically, as a father, to extend the 60 days, depending on the situation of each family and to organize dialogues with the companies that need the labor so that the people who have the documents can get an immediate job to integrate us into society and stop being a burden to the city of Chicago and the State.

Thank you

Testimony 2

Mi nombre es [REDACTED], soy [REDACTED]. Vine a este país con mi familia; [REDACTED]. Estamos agradecidos con Dios por todo lo que la ciudad de Chicago ha hecho con los migrantes.

En estos dos meses puedo decir, después de estar en una comisaría durante [REDACTED], fuimos al punto de aterrizaje en [REDACTED] y ahora estamos en un refugio. Todos sabemos que no tenemos los documentos necesarios para solicitar el alquiler de una casa y mucho menos para un trabajo permanente. Aunque tengamos los requisitos fundamentales para trabajar, no tienen en cuenta dónde aplicamos porque no hablamos inglés. Incluso para alquilar nos piden un montón de requisitos y como emigrantes no lo tenemos.

Como padres vamos a Home Depot a esperar a que alguien nos lleve a trabajar, y la gente se aprovecha de nosotros pagándonos menos o nada y no sabemos qué hacer en estas situaciones. Aunque muchos de nosotros ya estamos esperando permisos de trabajo por ingresar en las fechas correspondientes para obtenerlo, cabe destacar que fue porque estábamos en un albergue gracias a Dios. Pero estos procesos son muy lentos, todavía estamos esperando, en nuestro caso, que se aprueben. Y es esperar 1 mes, 2 meses y hasta 3 meses para que llegue el permiso y la seguridad social.

Por ejemplo, en el albergue solo [REDACTED] hay alguien que te puede ayudar con la vivienda. Esto debería ser por más días ya que solo tenemos 60 días para estar en el refugio y de lo contrario hay que empezar de cero de nuevo. Creo que no es una buena solución. No se trata de tirarnos a la calle, se trata de agilizar los procesos para que podamos obtener los permisos en menos tiempo y así

English Translation: Testimony 2

My name is [REDACTED], I am [REDACTED]. I came to this country with my family; [REDACTED]. We are grateful to God for all that the city of Chicago has done with migrants.

In these two months I can say, after being in a police station for [REDACTED], we went to the landing point in [REDACTED] and now we are in a shelter. We all know that we don't have the necessary documents to apply to rent a house, let alone for a permanent job. Even if we have the fundamental requirements to work, they don't take us into account where we apply because we don't speak English. Even to rent they ask us a lot of requirements and as emigrants we do not have it.

As parents we go to Home Depot to wait for someone to take us to work, and people take advantage of us by paying less or nothing and we don't know what to do in these situations. Although many of us are already waiting for work permits because we enter on the corresponding dates to obtain it, it should be noted that it was because we were in a shelter thank God. But these processes are very slow, we are still waiting, in our case, for them to be approved. And it is to wait 1 month, 2 months and even 3 months for the work permit and social security to arrive.

For example, in the shelter only on [REDACTED] there is someone who can help you with housing. This should be for more days as we only have 60 days to be in the shelter and otherwise we have to start from scratch again. I think it is not a good solution. It is not about throwing ourselves on the street, it is about streamlining the processes so that we can obtain the permits in less time and thus be able to work to be able to rent and stop depending on these resources. Kicking us out of the shelter would only cause diseases in the

Testimony 2 (continued)

poder trabajar para poder alquilar y dejar de depender de estos recursos. Echarlos del albergue solo causaría enfermedades en los niños, robos y abusos, no habrá control como el que hay en estos albergues.

Extender los 60 días dependiendo de la situación de las familias es mejor para el bienestar de nuestros niños para poder continuar en sus escuelas y continuar con esos lazos establecidos en esta comunidad. Volver al punto de aterrizaje es empezar de cero sin respuestas y, a veces, esperando más tiempo para los papeles de inmigración y nada. Por eso deben tener en cuenta el bienestar de nuestros hijos y les pedimos que extendieran unos meses más en el mismo albergue para intentar no volver a empezar. Ya que solo queremos tener un buen bienestar y un futuro mejor para nuestros hijos.

Gracias

English Translation: Testimony 2 (continued)

children, theft and abuse, there will be no control like the one in these shelters.

Extending the 60 days depending on the situation of the families is better for the well-being of our children to be able to continue in their schools and continue with those ties established in this community. Going back to the landing point is starting from scratch with no answers and sometimes waiting longer for immigration papers and nothing.

That is why they must take into account the well-being of our children and we ask you to extend a few more months in the same shelter to try not to start again. Since we just want to have a good well-being and a better future for our children. Thank you

Testimony 3

Mi nombre es [REDACTED] y soy [REDACTED] y vine a este país con mi familia, [REDACTED]. Estamos agradecidos con Dios por todo lo que la ciudad de Chicago ha hecho con nosotros y otros migrantes.

Pero en estos meses que nos dan en el albergue es muy poco tiempo para que podamos independizarnos. Ya que no tenemos un trabajo estable y perjudica a mis hijas ya que asisten a la escuela y sería empezar de nuevo en otro albergue.

Hemos hecho el proceso para obtener un permiso de trabajo y estamos esperando la aprobación para poder trabajar. Les pedimos que extiendan más tiempo en los refugios para darnos más tiempo para encontrar vivienda y recibir nuestros permisos de trabajo. Gracias.

English Translation: Testimony 3

My name is [REDACTED] and I am [REDACTED] and I came to this country with my family, [REDACTED]. We are grateful to God for all that the city of Chicago has done with us and other migrants.

But in these months that they give us in the shelter it is very little time for us to be able to become independent. Since we do not have a steady job and it harms my daughters since they attend school and it would be starting over in another shelter.

We have done the process to get a work permit and we are waiting for approval to be able to work. We ask that you extend more time in the shelters to give us more time to find housing and to receive our work permits. Thank you

Testimony 4

Mi nombre es [REDACTED], soy [REDACTED] y vine a este país con [REDACTED].

En este momento nos encontramos en un albergue aquí en la ciudad de Chicago, les escribo esta carta para contarles mi preocupación, podrían decir, porque tenemos la fecha de salida del albergue para [REDACTED]. Ya al concluir los 60 días que dan a las familias cuando ingresan a estos albergues, tiempo que para la mayoría es un poco imposible organizarse o instalarse en la ciudad.

Los obstáculos que enfrentamos todos los días es que al no calificarnos para el TPS, un permiso de trabajo y el seguro social nos afectan al no poder establecernos porque es un requisito para poder trabajar y poder alquilar una casa o apartamento.

Al salir de los 60 días del albergue, tengo que recalcar que cuando salimos sin tener un lugar donde quedarnos, es un pensamiento constante sobre lo que vamos a hacer ahora, a medida que se acerca la fecha, cada día es más preocupante y nos afecta psicológicamente. Nos dicen que volvamos al lugar de aterrizaje para que podamos pedir refugio sin contar el impacto de ser enviados a otra área y empezar de nuevo.

Tanto como en otro albergue es volver a empezar con otras trabajadoras sociales, el cambio de colegio de las niñas, el cambio de lugar de trabajo que puedas tener en estos momentos. También en casos como el de mi esposo y el mío y otras personas que están en el albergue estamos en clases de inglés cerca del albergue y algunos de nosotros estudiamos en la noche [REDACTED]. Al salir del refugio tendríamos que dejar de asistir a las clases de inglés por no saber cuál es nuestro otro destino.

English Translation: Testimony 4

My name is [REDACTED], I am [REDACTED] and I came to this country with [REDACTED].

At this moment we are in a shelter here in the city of Chicago, I am writing this letter to tell you my concern, you might say, because we have the departure date of the shelter for [REDACTED]. At the end of the 60 days that they give families when they enter these shelters, time that for most it is a little impossible to organize or settle in the city.

The obstacles we face every day is that not qualifying for TPS, a work permit and social security affect us by not being able to settle down because it is a requirement to be able to work and to be able to rent a house or apartment.

As we leave the 60 days of the shelter, I have to emphasize that when we leave without having a place to stay, it is a constant thought about what we are going to do now, as the date approaches, every day is more worrying and affects us psychologically. They tell us to go back to the landing site so we can ask for shelter without counting the shock of being sent to another area and starting over.

As much as in another shelter it is starting over with other social workers, the change of school for the girls, the change of place of work that you may have at the moment. Also in cases like my spouse and mine and other people who are in the hostel we are in English classes near the hostel and some of us study in the evening [REDACTED]. When we leave the refuge we would have to stop attending English classes because we did not know what our other destination would be.

Testimony 4 (continued)

Pedimos en nombre de todos los migrantes en esta situación que consideren un período de extensión más largo junto con ayuda para acelerar y resignar el TPS para aquellos que ingresaron después del 31 de julio. Porque para un caso de asilo válido, se debe esperar 150 días para solicitar un permiso de trabajo y seguridad social. Ya que un caso de asilo limita poder encontrar trabajo por los 150 días de espera y no poder establecernos en la comunidad.

Empezar desde cero en otro lugar es muy preocupante e incierto, espero que mi testimonio y punto de vista sea bien visto por todos los que puedan escuchar, empatizar y considerar esta carta. Que dios te bendiga

Gracias por su tiempo.

English Translation: Testimony 4 (continued)

We ask on behalf of all migrants in this situation to consider a longer extension period along with help to expedite and resign TPS for those who entered after July 31. Because for a valid asylum case, you must wait 150 days to apply for a work and social security permit. Since an asylum case limits being able to find work for the 150 days of waiting and not being able to establish ourselves in the community.

Starting from scratch elsewhere is very troubling and uncertain. I hope that my testimony and point of view will be well seen by all who can listen, empathize and consider this letter.

God bless you

Thank you for your time

Testimony 5

Je m'appelle [REDACTED] et je viens [REDACTED]. Je suis venu en Amérique pour chercher refuge. J'ai dû quitter brusquement ma maison, ma famille et mes enfants parce que ma vie était en danger. Je suis arrivé au refuge [REDACTED] ici à Chicago le [REDACTED]. On me dit que je dois quitter le refuge au [REDACTED], lorsque mes 60 jours seront terminés.

Oui, vivre dans un refuge n'est pas facile : les conditions de sommeil sont difficiles, les toilettes sont insalubres, il n'y a pas d'intimité, la nourriture est différente et parfois difficile à manger pour moi, et les gérants du refuge nous discriminent.

Mais si je dois quitter le refuge, je me retrouve dans les rues de ce nouveau lieu que je ne connais pas encore. Je n'ai ni famille ni amis

English Translation: Testimony 5

My name is [REDACTED] and I am from [REDACTED]. I came to America seeking refuge. I had to leave my home, my family, and my children suddenly because my life was in danger. I arrived at the [REDACTED] shelter here in Chicago on [REDACTED]. I am told I have to leave the shelter at [REDACTED] when my 60 days are over.

Yes, living in a shelter is not easy - the sleeping condition is hard, the toilets are unsanitary, there is no privacy, the food is different and hard for me to eat at times, and the shelter managers discriminate against us.

But if I have to leave the shelter, I am on the streets of this new place I don't know yet. I have no family or friends who can support me. I am still waiting for an opportunity to apply for asylum and I am not eligible for TPS.

Testimony 5 (continued)

qui puissent me soutenir. J'attends toujours une opportunité de demander l'asile et je ne suis pas éligible au TPS. Je ne peux pas bénéficier d'aide au logement car les programmes ont été fermés. Je suis prêt à travailler et à m'aider moi-même mais j'ai encore une autorisation de travail.

Je suis ici pour demander que la politique de refuge de 60 jours soit supprimée pour le bien des nombreux migrants vulnérables comme moi. Il doit y avoir une meilleure façon.

Merci.

English Translation: Testimony 5 (continued)

I am not able to get housing support because the programs have been closed. I am willing to work and help myself but I do have work authorization yet.

I am here to ask that the 60-day shelter policy be removed for the sake of the many vulnerable migrants like me. There has to be a better way.

Thank you.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE MEETING / SUBJECT MATTER HEARING - JULY 2, 2024

On July 2, 2024 at 12:30PM, the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights held a Committee Meeting / Subject Matter Hearing in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

ROLL CALL

The following committee members were present : Chairman Vasquez (40), Vice Chair Taylor (20), Alderperson Dowell (3), Alderperson Rodriguez (22), Alderperson Cruz (30), Alderperson Cardona (31), Alderperson Ramirez-Rosa (35), Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth (48). A quorum was established.

The following committee members were absent : Alderperson Gutierrez (14), Alderperson Knudsen (43).

Due to extenuating circumstances, Alderperson Fuentes (26), Alderperson Taliaferro (29), Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez (33), Alderperson Hadden (49), Alderperson Lee (11 / non-member) requested to attend the Committee Meeting virtually in accordance with Rule 59 of the City Council's Rules of Order. Alderperson Dowell moved to allow Alderperson Fuentes, Alderperson Taliaferro, Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez, Alderperson Hadden, and Alderperson Lee to attend virtually; with no objections, the motion passed.

The following non-members were present : Alderperson La Spata (1), Alderperson Lee (11), Alderperson Lopez (15), Alderperson Sigcho Lopez (25), Alderperson Burnett (27).

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public speakers were each given three minutes to provide their testimony : George Blakemore, Mark Kuehner, Zoe Leigh, Michael Young-Bey, Jessica Jackson, Esmeralda Alarcón, Luis Sinchi, Taiwan Sims, Cyatharine Alias.

THE COMMITTEE ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- Alderperson Cardona motioned to accept SR2023-0001265 and SR2024-0007367, substitute resolutions for R2023-0001265 and R2024-0007367. Chairman Vasquez asked committee members to vote by voice; in the opinion of the Chairman, the ayes won. The substitute resolutions were accepted.

RULE 45 REPORT

Approval of the March 2024 Rule 45 Report of the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Chairman Vasquez introduced the March 2024 Rule 45 Report, then asked for a motion to approve the report. Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth so moved; with no objections, the Rule 45 Report was approved.

SR2023-0001265 Call for hearing(s) with Chicago Police Department regarding status of U Nonimmigrant Status certifications, policies for approval/denial and collection of data

- Chairman Vasquez introduced SR2023-0001265, sponsored by Alderperson Lopez.
- The following attended / provided testimony in support of SR2023-0001265 :
 - Alderperson Lopez, Chicago City Council;
 - Trisha Teofilo Olave, Legal Project Manager, National Immigrant Justice Center.
- The following committee members and non-members asked questions / made comments : Chairman Vasquez, Alderperson Lopez, Alderperson Cruz, Alderperson Sigcho Lopez, Alderperson Rodriguez, Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth, Alderperson La Spata.
- Alderperson Lopez answered questions / made comments regarding : the Chicago Police Department's high rate of U-Visa denial; the Chicago Police Department's absence.
- Trisha Teofilo Olave, National Immigrant Justice Center, answered questions / made comments regarding : U-Visa data; certification processing time; appealing a denial; and improving the U-Visa process.
- Alderperson Rodriguez moved to pass the substitute resolution. Chairman Vasquez asked committee members to vote by voice; in the opinion of the Chairman, the ayes won. The substitute resolution was passed.
- Chairman Vasquez will bring the substitute resolution to City Council on July 17, 2024.

SR2024-0007367 Call for U.S. President Biden and Secretary of Homeland Security to process requests for temporary protective status to Ecuadorian citizens migrating to United States

- Chairman Vasquez introduced SR2024-0007367, sponsored by Alderperson Lopez.
- The following attended / provided testimony in support of SR2024-0007367 :
 - Alderperson Lopez, Chicago City Council;
 - Humberto Jiménez, Consul General of Ecuador;
 - Edith Freeze, Director, Pachacamak Folk Foundation;
 - Elizabeth Espinosa, Profesionales Voluntarios;
 - Michela Toledo, Profesionales Voluntarios;
 - Allyson Vazquez, Profesionales Voluntarios.
- Edith Freeze, Pachacamak Folk Foundation, presented the 'Indigenous Ecuadorians: Challenges and Advocacy for TPS' slide deck.
- The following committee members and non-members asked questions / made comments : Alderperson Sigcho Lopez, Alderperson Dowell.
- Humberto Jiménez, Consul General of Ecuador, answered questions / made comments regarding : Ecuadorian immigration policy.
- Alderperson Cardona moved to pass the substitute resolution.
- Chairman Vasquez briefly recessed the Committee Meeting.

- Regarding Alderperson Cardona's motion to pass the substitute resolution, Chairman Vasquez asked committee members to vote by voice; in the opinion of the Chairman, the ayes won. The substitute resolution was passed.
- Chairman Vasquez will bring the substitute resolution to City Council on July 17, 2024.

R2024-0008935 Call for hearing(s) to explore and address implications of climate change-induced migration to Chicago

- Chairman Vasquez introduced R2024-0008935, sponsored by Chairman Vasquez.
- The following attended / provided testimony in support of R2024-0008935 :
 - Dr. Anne Junod, Environmental Social Scientist and Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute (joined virtually; views expressed are her own, and should not be attributed to the Urban Institute, the institute's leadership, trustees, or funders);
 - Dr. Rachel Drew, Senior Research Director, Enterprise Community Partners (joined virtually; views expressed are her own, and not the views of Enterprise Community Partners, the organization's officers, or board);
 - Dulce Guzmán, Deputy Director of Institutional Development, Alianza Americas;
 - Jose Robles, Associate Director, UIC Latino Cultural Center.
- The following attended to provide information regarding City of Chicago operations :
 - Glen Lyman, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management & Communications, City of Chicago.
- Dr. Anne Junod and Dr. Rachel Drew presented the 'Climate Migrants and Receiving Communities' slide deck.
- Dulce Guzmán, Alianza Americas, and Jose Robles, UIC Latino Cultural Center, presented the 'Climate migration: the role of city government' slide deck.
- The following committee members and non-members asked questions / made comments : Chairman Vasquez, Alderperson Dowell, Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth, Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez.
- Glen Lyman, Office of Emergency Management & Communications, answered questions / made comments regarding : City of Chicago risk assessments; proactive migrant support operations; regional coordination and planning.
- Jose Robles, UIC Latino Cultural Center, answered questions / made comments regarding : climate migration models in other locations.
- Dulce Guzmán, Alianza Americas, answered questions / made comments regarding : climate migration models in other locations.
- Dr. Anne Junod answered questions / made comments regarding : intergovernmental and interagency regional planning; institutionalizing knowledge.
- Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth moved to pass the resolution. Chairman Vasquez asked committee members to vote by voice; in the opinion of the Chairman, the ayes won. The resolution was passed.
- Chairman Vasquez will bring the resolution to City Council on July 17, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Vasquez asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderperson Dowell so moved. Hearing no objections, Chairman Vasquez adjourned the meeting.



SUBJECT MATTER HEARING - JULY 23, 2024

On July 23, 2024 at 10:00AM, the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights held a Subject Matter Hearing in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

ROLL CALL

The following committee members were present : Chairman Vasquez (40), Alderperson Dowell (3), Alderperson Rodriguez (22), Alderperson Fuentes (26), Alderperson Taliaferro (29), Alderperson Cruz (30), Alderperson Cardona (31), Alderperson Ramirez-Rosa (35), Alderperson Knudsen (43), Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth (48), Alderperson Hadden (49). A quorum was established.

Due to extenuating circumstances, Vice Chair Taylor (20), Alderperson Gutierrez (14), Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez (33), and Alderperson Moore (17 / non-member) requested to attend the Subject Matter Hearing virtually in accordance with Rule 59 of the City Council's Rules of Order. Alderperson Rodriguez moved to allow Vice Chair Taylor, Alderperson Gutierrez, Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez, and Alderperson Moore to attend virtually; with no objections, the motion passed.

Due to extenuating circumstances, Alderperson Dowell (3) and Alderperson Hall (6 / non-member) requested to attend the Subject Matter Hearing virtually in accordance with Rule 59 of the City Council's Rules of Order. Alderperson Rodriguez moved to allow Alderperson Dowell and Alderperson Hall to attend virtually; with no objections, the motion passed.

No committee members were absent.

The following non-members were present : Alderperson Hall (6), Alderperson Moore (17).

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public speakers were each given three minutes to provide their testimony : Elizabeth Loera, Zoe Leigh, Annie Franco, Raquel Perez, Emmanuel Mandujano, Emily Wheeler, Tiwon Sims, Jessica Jackson, Alvaro Padilla, Jhouwiuck Penez, Antonio Jose Reyes Ortega.

THE COMMITTEE ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

SUBJECT MATTER HEARING

The Subject Matter Hearing will discuss O2024-0008394, an amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 2-172 by deleting in its entirety and adding new Chapter 2-172

entitled 'Transitional Haven Guidelines,' prohibiting length of stay limitations for transitional shelters operated by City of Chicago. New arrivals will provide testimony.

- Chairman Vasquez introduced the subject matter hearing.
- The following attended / provided testimony :
 - Beatriz Ponce de Leon, Deputy Mayor for Immigrant, Migrant and Refugee Rights, Office of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights, City of Chicago;
 - Annette Guzman, Budget Director, Office of Budget and Management, City of Chicago;
 - Commissioner Brandie Knazze, Department of Family & Support Services, City of Chicago;
 - Maura McCauley, Managing Deputy Commissioner, Department of Family & Support Services;
 - Daniel 'Danny' Castañeda, Deputy Commissioner for New Arrivals, Department of Family & Support Services;
 - William 'BJ' Lohr, Director of New Arrivals, Department of Family & Support Services;
 - Andrea Chatman, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Family & Support Services;
 - Glen Lyman, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management & Communications, City of Chicago;
 - Santiago, New Arrival, and Dulce Granado (translation);
 - Muanza, New Arrival, and Fasika Alem, Programs Director, United African Organization (translation).
- Deputy Mayor Ponce de León, Commissioner Knazze, and Budget Director Guzman presented the 'Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights' slide deck.
- Santiago and Muanza provided testimony. Dulce Granado and Fasika Alem translated.
- Chairman Vasquez presented the 'New Arrival Data and Resources' slide deck.
- The following committee members and non-members asked questions / made comments : Alderperson Dowell, Alderperson Rodriguez, Alderperson Fuentes, Alderperson Hadden, Chairman Vasquez, Vice Chair Taylor.
- Budget Director Guzman, Office of Budget and Management, answered questions regarding the following : per-day, per-person costs for the new arrival shelter system; per-day, per-person costs for the unhoused shelter system; budgeting for a potential migrant surge; and more.
- Deputy Mayor Ponce de León, Office of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights, answered questions regarding the following : current new arrival shelter capacity; building surge capacity; feasibility of changing the 60-day policy; funding sources for anticipated surge; volunteer opportunities; language access in shelters; and more.
- Commissioner Knazze, Department of Family & Support Services, answered questions regarding the following : feasibility of changing the 60-day policy; transportation between shelters and the Landing Zone; steps taken to avoid using police stations as shelters; funding for Accelerated Moving Events; emergency staffing; data tracking for unhoused

individuals and those leaving new arrival shelters; surge planning; current homeless system operations; and more.

- Daniel Castañeda, Department of Family & Support Services, answered questions regarding the following : shelter grievance process; Chicago Park District programming; nationality data; and more.
- Maura McCauley, Department of Family & Support Services, answered questions regarding the following : comparisons between new arrival operations in Denver and Chicago; tracking and outreach for new arrivals not in shelters; and more.
- William Lohr, Department of Family & Support Services, answered questions regarding the following : ESL volunteer process and timeline.
- Glen Lyman, Office of Emergency Management & Communications, answered questions regarding the following : Landing Zone operations; DNC coordination with county, state, and federal agencies.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Vasquez asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderperson Fuentes so moved. Hearing no objections, Chairman Vasquez adjourned the meeting.