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**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  
MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 2025**

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 September 2025.

**REFERRED MATTERS**

**REPORTS AND MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE**

1. September 5 2025 Committee Meeting / Subject Matter Hearing Notice
2. September 5 2025 Notice of Cancellation
3. September 12 2025 Committee Meeting / Subject Matter Hearing Notice
4. September 12 2025 Committee Meeting / Subject Matter Hearing Agenda of Matters
5. 'Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights July 1, 2025 Meeting Presentation' from the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights
6. 'CIRR Presentation on Learnings from Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.,' from the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights
7. Memorandum on Immigration Updates from IL State Rep. Hernandez
8. Safe Schools for All Fact Sheet

**WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

In order of date received

1. From Mark J Kuehner, First Immanuel Lutheran Church  
*We have had two deaths of California workers being chased by Federal agents. You must take action to stop this brutality before a Chicago resident is murdered. These armed racist thugs from ICE and other Federal agencies have abandoned the lie that they are looking for people with criminal*

*records. They have abandoned the lie that they have judicial warrants. They are committing kidnapping and child abuse. They are a threat to public safety.*

*They need to be chased out of town or arrested by CPD. The City of Chicago has good lawyers that can make this case. Please take swift action on this abuse of power before one of our neighbors is killed.*

2. From Lisa Wright, Director of Government Affairs & Advocacy at the Chinese American Service League

*We are seeing an increase in immigration-related law enforcement activity throughout Chicago. On average, there have been nine immigration-related arrests per day in Chicago, which is up 39% from 2024.*

- *ICE's Operation Midway Blitz immigration raid is racially profiling and targeting people of color in Chicago and Illinois. People were detained in everyday public spaces on the Southwest Side: a street vendor at West 50th St. and Pulaski Road, a person waiting for a bus at 47th Street and Archer Ave., and another individual simply walking near 49th Street and Archer Ave.*
- *As an Illinois Welcoming Center, CASL has also seen a rise in cases related to immigration enforcement and family safety concerns this year, particularly in the last four months (May, June, July, August 2025).*

*While immigration raids have disproportionately affected Hispanic/Latinx communities, the AANHPI community is also impacted—and we must raise awareness of this.*

- *We're hearing from AANHPI community members – both citizens and noncitizens – who are afraid to go to work, school, or visit CASL in person for services (identities of individuals are kept confidential).*
- *As an Illinois Welcoming Center, CASL has also seen a rise in cases related to immigration and family safety concerns, particularly since May. Stop AAPI Hate has also reported renewed surges in anti-Asian hate incidents since the current president took office.*
  - *WBEZ and Sun-Times analyzed U.S. Census data in August 2025, revealing that in the Chicago metro area, 65% of the 24,000 home care aides were noncitizens.*
- *We must pursue a realistic, long-term solution to immigration. Just last week, over 300 Korean nationals were detained in an immigration raid at a Hyundai plant near Savannah, Georgia. These workers had been brought over on improper visas by subcontractors used to shield Hyundai from responsibility—highlighting the systemic failures in how our country manages temporary and skilled worker visas*

*Unmarked vehicles and masked agents create serious public safety risks. Requiring federal officers to wear visible identification is a public safety issue.*

- *Clear identification not only protects the public by distinguishing legitimate officers from criminal impersonators, but it also protects officers from bad actors in the field. In a case CASL worked on in Armour Square, CASL staff were unable to tell whether the vehicles and individuals present were official government personnel, civilians, or bad actors. We have heard deeply troubling accounts of individuals posing as federal immigration officers to intimidate lawful residents and put women and families in danger. When DHS officers conduct enforcement in plain clothes and without visible identification, it becomes difficult for both the public and local law enforcement to differentiate whether they are interacting with an authorized officer or a bad actor. This creates dangerous opportunities for abuse and erodes public trust.*

*Please reach out to us for any follow-up questions.*

### **COMMITTEE MEETING / SUBJECT MATTER HEARING: SEPTEMBER 12, 2025**

On September 12, 2025 at 10am, the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights held a Committee Meeting and Subject Matter Hearing in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

#### **ROLL CALL**

A quorum was established.

The following members were present: Chair Vasquez (40), Alderperson Gutierrez (14), Alderperson Rodriguez (22), Alderperson Fuentes (26), Alderperson Cruz (30), Alderperson Cardona (31), Alderperson Quezada (35), Alderperson Knudsen (43), Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez (33)

The following members were not present: Vice Chair Taylor (20), Alderperson Dowell (03), Alderperson Taliaferro (29), Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth (48), and Alderperson Hadden (49)

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following public speakers were each given three minutes to provide their testimony:

- Prosperity News
- George Blakemore
- Karina Santana
- Diana Leifer
- Chris Kulfan
- Amber Bel'cher
- Michael Young Bay

- Patrica Puente
- Ivy Czekanski

## THE COMMITTEE ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

### **MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT**

1. Approval of the July 2025 Rule 45 Report  
**Recommended to Pass: Passed by the Committee**

### **SUBJECT MATTER HEARING**

A Subject Matter Hearing on federal immigration enforcement trends in Chicago and other cities where there has been escalation

- The following attended to provide testimony at the subject matter hearing:
  - Fred Tsao, Senior Policy Counsel, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
  - Ed Yohnka, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
  - Alison Murphy, Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights (CIRR)
- Chair Vasquez introduced Or2025-0017810, including a summary of the events of June 4, 2025, and the Committee's understanding of whether any investigation, whether internal or independent, had yet been conducted.
- Fred Tsao, ICIRR, provided testimony on the passage of the Illinois Safe Schools Act
- Ed Yohnka, ACLU, provided testimony on learnings from Washington D.C. and Los Angeles requested reporting on any incidents of violations from federal agents of first amendment rights and/or excessive force
- Alison Murphy, CIRR, presented on learnings from Washington D.C. and Los Angeles and how Chicago can prepare for a federal deployment and/or an escalation in immigration enforcement actions.

A complete recap of the meeting can be found at  
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8928487/video/1096716165>

### ADJOURNMENT

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