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CITY OF CHICAGO

ROSSANA RODRIGUEZ-SANCHEZ  
ALDERPERSON, 33RD WARD

LATIN CAUCUS  
(CAUCUS CHAIR)

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS  
HEALTH AND HUMAN REALIONS  
(COMMITTEE CHAIR)

BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND ENERGY

FINANCE

HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RELATIONS MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT: MARCH 2025

Pursuant to the Rule 45 of City of Chicago Rules and Order, the Committee on Health and Human Relations submits the following monthly report for MARCH 2025.

The Committee on Health and Human Relations held a meeting at City Hall in Council Chambers on Wednesday, March 19th, 2025.

### **The following committee members were present:**

Chair Rodriguez-Sanchez  
Vice Chair Ramirez  
Ald. Sigcho-Lopez  
Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth  
Ald. Hadden  
Ald. Fuentes  
Ald. Lawson  
Ald. Yancy  
Ald. Lopez  
Ald. Cruz  
Ald. Gutierrez

### **Remote Participation:**

Ald. Robinson

Chairperson Rodriguez-Sanchez called the committee meeting to order at approximately 10:31 am. The Chair then proceeded to call for a roll call to establish quorum. After establishing a quorum, the Chairperson called for a vote to allow remote participation for Ald. Robinson under Rule 59. Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth moved to approve remote participation, which was approved.

The public comment period began with 2 minutes allotted to each speaker. There were 21 public speakers, and 14 written comments that were shared with committee members via email.

The committee heard public comment from the following speakers:

- Keith Zelinke
- Michael Kaminsky
- Jessica Jackson

- Silas L.
- I. Tahirovic
- Ezra Landman
- Josh S.
- Kevin Clenna
- H. Hobscheid
- George Blakemore
- L. Meyerson
- Josh W.
- Miriam Bilsker
- William Chase
- Martin Levine
- Jane Charney
- Sabina A.
- Charles Delman
- Tiwon S.
- Jimmy Rothschild (Virtual)
- Robert Tillery (Virtual)

Following public comments, the Chair called for the approval of the **Rule 45 Report** from the committee meeting held in February 2024. Ald. Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth moved to approve the report which was approved with no abstentions.

The Chair read into record the list of mayoral appointments and reappointments to the Mayoral Appointments and Re-appointments to the Chicago Board of Health.

A2024-0013655	Reappointment of Horace E. Smith and Appointment of Horace E. Smith as President
A2024-0013654	Appointment of Kathryn Bocanegra
A2024-0013651	Appointment of Travis Gayles
A2024-0013653	Appointment of Hong Liu
A2024-0013652	Appointment of Chinyere Okwu
A2024-0014171	Appointment of Jerrard Walker
A2025-0014862	Appointment of Stephanie D. Willding
A2025-0015976	Appointment of Aida Giachello

The following guests, were present to speak on the Board of Health appointments:

#### In Person

- Kathryn Bocanegra, Ph.D, LCSW
- Travis Gayles, MD, Ph.D.
- Hong Liu, Ph.D. M.A.
- Chi Chi Okwu, M.P.H.
- Stephanie Willding, MPA

Virtual

- Bishop Horace E. Smith M.D.
- Jerrard Walker, RN, LCSW
- Aida Giachello, Ph.D.

The Chair opened the space for questions and comments from committee members:

- Ald. Lawson provided comments about the strong resumes of the appointees
- Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth asked questions to appointees about the incidence and rate of COVID in Chicago and the disparities among communities of color in the City.
- Ald. Lopez requested more information about the appointments which will be provided through the chair after the meeting.

Vice Chair Ramirez motioned for the approval of the appointments, which passed with no objections.

The Chair then proceeded to call the next item on the agenda, Chair Hadden's ordinance **O2024-0012999 "Protecting Families and Caregivers Ordinance,"** which is an "Amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 6-10 establishing protections of civil rights for individuals with actual or perceived association with any individual of protected classes."

Chair Hadden has submitted a substitute of this ordinance for the committee's consideration which was sent via email to committee members. The committee also received one public written comment in support of this item, which was sent via email.

The Chair opened the space for questions and comments from committee members:

- Chair Hadden provided remarks about her ordinance, which looks to codify protections for individuals with actual or perceived association with individuals of protected classes.

Chair Hadden presented a substitute for the resolution, which Ald. Lopez moved to be accepted. Chair Hadden motioned for the approval of the ordinance, which passed with no objections.

The Chair moved to the third item on the agenda, Alderwoman Ramirez's resolution **R2024-0010989 which is a "Call for hearing(s) on issues of hate and discrimination in the City of Chicago."**

The Chair opened the space for questions and comments from committee members:

- Alderwoman Ramirez has submitted a substitute of this resolution for the committee's consideration which was sent via email to committee members.

Ald. Lawson motioned to accept the substitute resolution which was approved with no objections.

Vice Chair Ramirez talked about what the substitute resolution aims to achieve, by providing education and training for Aldermanic offices and the general public about incidents and speech of hate and discrimination.

Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth motioned for approval of the resolution, which passed with no objections.

The Chair moved to the fourth item on the agenda is a **Subject Matter Hearing** calling for the release of Mahmoud Khalil by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents (ICE) and for investigation into circumstances surrounding his detention, which is **related to resolution R2025-0015954 filed by Chair Sigcho-Lopez.**

**There were no votes on this matter at the meeting.**

The following guests were present to speak on the Subject Matter Hearing:

- Edwin Yohnka, ACLU Director of Policy and Communications
- Ahmed Rehab, Executive Director, CAIR Chicago
- Dr. Souzan Naser, Counselor and Professor (US Palestinian Community Network - Chicago Chapter)


The Chair opened the space for questions and comments from committee members:

- Chair Sigcho-Lopez delivered remarks on the subject and emphasized the importance of protecting human and constitutional rights in our City and beyond. He also read a letter from Mahmoud Khalil detailing his unlawful detention and violation of due process rights.
- Ald. Lopez provided comments on his concerns about the October 7th attacks
- Chair Hadden provided comments about her reasons to co-sponsor a resolution by Ald. Sigcho-Lopez that is related to the subject matter discussed in the hearing. She stated the importance of protecting individuals' civil rights and for the federal government to follow the law.
- Ald. Fuentes provided comments about the importance of discussing this issue because it is about due process and the protection of constitutional rights.
- Chair Rodriguez-Sanchez responded to comments from members of the committee and provided clarity about how the subject matter is the appropriate space to discuss these issues.
- Edwin Yohnka, ACLU Director of Policy and Communications provided expert testimony about the constitutional crisis happening in the Country and the need for all elected officials to advocate for democracy.

The Chair called on Chair Sigcho-Lopez to close the meeting. Chair Sigcho-Lopez clarified information mentioned by other committee members earlier in the meeting.

With there being no further business before the committee, Ald. Hadden moved a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and approved, bringing the meeting to a close.

Respectfully submitted,



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Ald. Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez (33)  
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Human Relations