



CITY OF CHICAGO



BYRON SIGCHO-LOPEZ  
ALDERMAN, 25TH WARD

Committee on Housing and Real Estate  
Monthly Rule 45 Report

Pursuant to the Rule 45 of City of Chicago Rules and Order, the Committee on Housing and Real Estate submits the following monthly report for July 2023. On Thursday July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 1:00pm the Committee on Housing and Real Estate held a meeting at City Hall in Council Chambers.

**The following members were present:**

Alderman Sigcho-López (Chairman) (25)  
Alderman Mitchell (Vice-Chair) (7)  
Alderman LaSpata (1)  
Alderman Dowell (3)  
Alderman Robinson (4)  
Alderman Harris (8)  
Alderman Quinn (13)  
Alderman Moore (17)  
Alderwoman Taylor (20)  
Alderman Tabares (23)

Alderwoman Scott (24)  
Aldersperson Fuentes (26)  
Alderman Burnett (27)  
Alderwoman Rodriguez-Sanchez (33)  
Alderman Ramirez-Rosa (35)  
Alderman Villegas (36)  
Alderwoman Clay (46)  
Alderwoman Manaa-Hoppenworth (48)  
Alderwoman Hadden (49)

Non-Members present: Alderwoman Lee (11<sup>th</sup>), Alderwoman Ramirez (12<sup>th</sup>), Alderwoman Gutierrez (14<sup>th</sup>), Alderman Ervin (28<sup>th</sup>), Alderman Martin (47<sup>th</sup>), Alderwoman Silverstein (50<sup>th</sup>)

The Chairman Called the meeting to order after at approximately 2:06pm. The Chairman accepts a motion from Ald. LaSpata to allow for remote participation by non-committee member Alderwoman Silverstein, which was approved by the same roll call as was used to establish quorum. There were 15 public speaker and seven written comments, including a letter in support of Bring Chicago Home (BCH) from 8<sup>th</sup> District Cook County Board Commissioner Anthony Quezada. In addition, a report from Aldersperson Jessie Fuentes on homelessness was distributed to attendees.

**Written Public Comment Submitted to the Committee**

- Ms. Alice Wozniak sent an email to express her support for BCH.
- Mr. Paul Colgan, of the Building Industry Association of Greater Chicago sent a letter asking the city to explore other options and audit existing funding streams before they consider BCH.
- Ms. Mary Kay Minaghan, of MKM Services sent a letter on behalf of Theresa Kern, Board Chair of the Chicago Chapter of the Women Construction Owners & Executives, USA. The letter spoke to members of WCOE's difficulties with rising construction costs

and obstacles to M/WBE firms in general. They have concerns the BCH would further exacerbate these difficulties and urged the city to look at other ways to fund anti-homelessness programs.

- Ms. Amy Masters, Director of Government and External Affairs at Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago sent a letter to express their organizations opposition to BCH.
- Mr. Michael J. Mini, Executive Vice President of the Chicagoland Apartment Association sent a letter to express concerns over BCH and its unintended consequence of slowing construction of new affordable and market-rate developments.
- Mr. Tom Benedetto, Director of Local Advocacy for the Illinois Association of Realtors sent a letter on behalf of the Illinois Association of Realtors and the Chicago Association of Realtors to express their willingness to partner with legislators to find a solution housing insecurity. They have concerns with BCH and offered alternative plans.
- County Board Commissioner, Anthony Joel Quezada (8<sup>th</sup>), sent a strong letter of support for the Bring Chicago Home Proposal.

### **Public Comment Speakers**

- Dr. Nancy Heil, Chair of the Housing Committee at the Illinois American Academy of Pediatrics spoke to the grave health effects on children experience homelessness. Specifically pre-natal maternal health outcomes of those experiencing homelessness and the developmental issues that young children face if they experience homelessness. She is in full support of BCH.
- Bishop David Todd Whittley, Sr. Pastor at Corinthian Temple Church of God and Christ of the 28<sup>th</sup> Ward spoke in favor of BCH. The pastor spoke to the importance of having a dedicated stream of revenue to help provide shelter to those most at need. Called for collaboration with faith leaders, and legislators to Bring Chicago Home.
- Ms. Amy Masters, representing BOMA/Chicago spoke in opposition of BCH.
- Chef Greg Adams, with the IL Union Homelessness Board spoke in favor of BCH.
- Mr. Daniel Wolk, from Chicago Solutions Forum spoke on concerns on lack of public awareness on and unintended outcomes that may come from BCH. They called for more discussion on the topic.
- Ms. Cynthia McFadden, of the 49<sup>th</sup> Ward spoke on concerns over lack of awareness and doubling of property taxes on homes.
- Mr. Josiah Gardner, from SEIU Healthcare shared an idea to employ people experiencing homelessness in construction and house them while they work on this program.
- Ms. Latoya T. Wofford, sharing her testimony on their personal experience with homelessness. She is in full support of BCH.
- Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Triche Atkins, staff minister at Christ Universal Temple and organizer of the Interfaith Roundtable of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. Spoke to the multi-faith efforts to assist in BCH legislation.
- Lucian Foster, resident of the 35<sup>th</sup> Ward and with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, shared their testimony on their own experience with homelessness as a young person and spoke in strong favor of BCH.
- Ms. Jackie Edens, CEO of Inner Voice INC. spoke in support of BCH. She shared her personal experience on working with people experiencing homelessness since the

1970's.

- Ms. Justine Allenbach, representing the Center for Housing and Health and BCH, she spoke to high need for BCH and the work needed to bring the over 17,000 CPS homeless students home.
- Mr. Steven Rothschild of the 34<sup>th</sup> Ward, family physician, and a member of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs spoke to his experience in serving the City's homeless population and advocated for a Housing First model (permanent supportive housing) to help address the issue in the city and help alleviate the back-end healthcare costs associated with homelessness. He is in strong favor of BCH.
- Mr. Daryle Brown, Director for Social Justice at Trinity United Church of Christ, spoke in full support on behalf of himself and his church for BCH.
- Ms. Ann Holcomb, manager of Unity Parenting and Counseling Shelter, spoke to her personal experience of homelessness as a youth. She spoke to the issues with backlog of city housing program and need for a dedicated funding stream for homelessness.
- Alderwoman Hadden was recognized by the Chair to briefly address the gallery and those who helped organize the hearing.

### **Approval of July 10th 2023 Rule 45 Report**

- Alderman LaSpata moved to approve, which was approved by the same roll call as was used to establish quorum.

**Subject Matter Hearing on Bring Chicago Home / Real Estate Transfer Tax Increase proposal for the purpose of establishing a dedicated finding source for the City's efforts in addressing homelessness.**

### **Presenting on the City's current efforts to address homelessness**

- Commissioner Brandie Knazze, Department of Family and Support Services
- Commissioner Maria Novara, Department of Housing

### **Presenting on behalf of the Bring Chicago Home Coalition**

- Mary Tarullo, Associate Director of Policy and Strategic Campaigns at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Carla Johnson from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Electa Bey from Communities United
- Pete Toepfer from the Center for Housing and Health.

### **Additional City of Chicago Representatives in "the box" for Q&A**

- Umi Grigsby, Chief of Policy, Mayors Office
- Juan Sebastian Arias, First Deputy Mayor of Policy, Mayors Office
- Maura McCauley, Managing Deputy Commissioner, DFSS
- Gabriella Nelson, Senior Policy Analyst, DOH

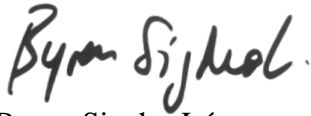
After a 20min presentation from DFSS & DOH, and a 20min presentation from the Bring Chicago Home Coalition Committee Members Q & A commenced.

The following Alderpersons asked clarifying questions which were responded by the city and coalition representative mentioned above.

- Alderman Burnett (27), Alderwoman Rodriguez-Sanchez (33), Alderwoman Taylor (20), Alderwoman Tabares (23), Alderperson Fuentes (26), Alderman Villegas (36), Alderman LaSpata (1), Alderwoman Manaa-Hoppenworth (48), Alderwoman Dowell (3), Alderman Martin (47), Alderwoman Clay (46), Alderman Ramirez-Rosa (35), Alderwoman Lee (11), Alderman Ervin (28), ad Alderwoman Hadden (49).

**The Committee having no further business, on a motion made by Alderwoman Hadden, the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,



Byron Sigcho-López  
Chairman, Committee on Housing and Real Estate