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CITY OF CHICAGO

ROSSANA RODRIGUEZ-SANCHEZ
ALDERPERSON, 33RD WARD

LATIN CAUCUS
(CAUCUS CHAIR)

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
HEALTH AND HUMAN REALTIONS
(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: DECEMBER 2023

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 December 2023.

The Committee on Health and Human Relations held a meeting at City Hall in Council Chambers on Monday, December 18th, 2023, at 1:00pm.

The following committee members were present:

Chair Rodriguez-Sanchez (33)
Vice Chair Ramirez (12)
Ald. Gutierrez (14)
Ald. Fuentes (26)
Ald. Sigcho-Lopez (25)
Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth (48)
Ald. Robinson (4)

Remote Participation:

Ald. Ramirez-Rosa (35)
Ald. Yancy (5)
Ald. Hadden (49)
Ald. Cruz (30)

Non-members present:

Ald. LaSpata (1)

Members Absent:

Ald. Lopez (15)
Ald. Coleman (16)
Ald. Lawson (44)

Chairperson Rodriguez-Sanchez called the committee meeting to order at approximately 1:13 pm. 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 Alders Yancy, Cruz, Ramirez-Rosa, and Hadden. Ald. Gutierrez moved to approve remote participation of these four alders, and was approved by voice vote with no nays or abstentions.

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The public comment period began with 2 minutes allotted to each speaker.
There were 20 public speakers that submitted pink slips and 2 written comments.

The committee heard public comment from the following speakers:

Andy Thaye, Frank Chapman, Linda Loew, Muhammad Sankari, Omar, Gabriel Miller, Keith Kohn, Layla Zayed, Robin Semer, Nadiyah Alyafai, Yolanda Juden, Khalil Dennis, Mishai Qureshi, George Blakemore, and Nino Brown.

Following public comments, the Chair called for the approval of the **Rule 45 Report** from the committee meeting held on November 14, 2023. So moved by Ald. Fuentes, it passed.

The Chair then called for item **R2023-0005541** to “Call on U.S. Congress to clarify U.S. Tax Code to prevent misuse of Puerto Rican tax incentives and negative economic impact on people of Puerto Rico.”

Ald. Fuentes spoke briefly about this resolution before Ald. Sigcho-Lopez moved a motion to recommend approval for this resolution, which passed unanimously.

The Chair then called for item **R2023-0006422**, an “Expression of support for United Nations Resolution 377 known as ‘Uniting for Peace.’” Before hearing the testimony of several speakers in the box, Chairwoman Rodriguez-Sanchez asked for a motion to accept a substitute resolution for this item. Ald. Fuentes so moved and the substitute was unanimously accepted. The testimony portion of the meeting then began:

- Rabbi Brant Rosen spoke about the genocidal violence that is occurring in Palestine and the difference between Judaism and Zionism, along with a history of the region.
- Maya Schenwar spoke from a journalist perspective and how the journalist world has protested in Chicago and many places to call for a ceasefire. She also included that as a Jewish person she supports a ceasefire now.
- Sociocultural anthropologist Callie Maidhof spoke as an anti-Zionist Jew and about the research she has conducted, especially since she has lived in Palestine in the past.
- State Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid began with a story of a child killed in a maternity ward in Gaza and how Israel is clear in their intention of obliterating Gaza. He stated he was grateful for members of the congressional delegation to call for a ceasefire.

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- Dr. Thaer Ahmad talked about the dire medical situation in Palestine and the total telecommunications blackout that had occurred. He also spoke about the lack of meals and water, disease among Gazans, and the amount of children dying in Gaza.
- Jinan Chehade, cofounder of Student for Justice in Palestine (SJP) Chicago, spoke of how youth have met this moment and are taking off school and work to protest and boycott in Chicago and all around the world.
- Barbara Ransby said an ethnic cleansing and genocidal campaign is occurring in Palestine and as a historian, she knows this will be a historic moment when looking back at the 21st century. She also spoke of the long history of support for Palestine from the Black community, such as Malcolm X, SNCC, Jesse Jackson, and leaders from the Black feminist movement like Angela Davis and Audre Lorde.

Following the speakers that presented, Ald. LaSpata spoke on why he believes the Chicago City Council must speak on this issue.

Ald. Sigcho-Lopez thanked Chicagoans who are mobilizing on this issue.

Ald. Fuentes spoke about the history of Palestinian and Puerto Rican solidarity.

Chairwoman Rodriguez-Sanchez spoke about the connection between Puerto Ricans, Black people, and Palestinians being dehumanized throughout history.

Ald. Fuentes moved a motion to recommend approval for this resolution which passed unanimously.

The Committee having no further business, on a motion made by Ald. Fuentes, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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