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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 : MARCH 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 March 2024.

REFERRED MATTERS

PASSED

SO2024-0008386	Referred 03/20/2024	Department of Family and Support Services directed to provide City Council reports of total New Arrivals and Asylum Seekers to be evicted or removed from shelters operated by City of Chicago
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HELD IN COMMITTEE

R2024-0008385	Referred 03/20/2024	Call for hearing(s) with relevant City departments to explore barriers to housing for immigrant and refugee communities in City of Chicago
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O2024-0008392	Referred 03/20/2024	Amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 2-172 by deleting in its entirety and adding new Chapter 2-172 entitled "Prevent Shelter Evictions" prohibiting length of stay limitations for transitional shelters operated by City of Chicago
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O2024-0008393	Referred 03/20/2024	Amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 2-172 by deleting in its entirety and adding new Chapter 2-172 entitled "Clarifying Haven Time Limits" prohibiting length of stay limitations for transitional shelters operated by City of Chicago
O2024-0008394	Referred 03/20/2024	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
O2024-0008395	Referred 03/20/2024	Amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 2-172 by deleting in its entirety and adding new Chapter 2-172 entitled "Codifying Transitional Haven Removals" prohibiting length of stay limitations for transitional shelters operated by City of Chicago

REPORTS AND MATERIALS RECEIVED BY COMMITTEE

1. 'Notice of Cancellation' document, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
2. 'Revised Agenda of Matters' document, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
3. 'January 2024 Rule 45 Report,' provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
4. Written public comment compilation, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
5. O2024-0008386, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
6. SO2024-0008386, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
7. Revised SO2024-0008386, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
8. 'Daily Shelter Exit & Condition Reporting' slide deck, provided by the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT

In order of date received :

1. From Forest Gregg :

Dear Chair Vasquez, Vice-Chair Taylor and honorable members,

I am writing today to urge the Committee to pass Ordinance O2024-0008386 out of committee with a recommendation to the City Council to pass the ordinance.

To fulfill its oversight responsibility, the council needs detailed information about shelter exits.

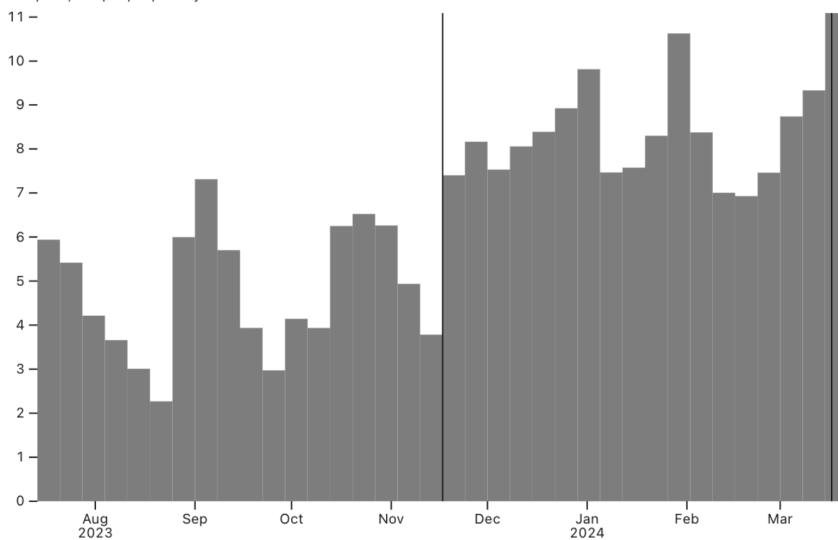
Regardless of whether one believes that there should be limits to how long an asylum seeker can stay in a city shelter, we can all agree the preferred outcome is that asylum seekers who come into the shelter system connect to a better housing option within 60 days.

If the council does not have fine-grained information of shelter exits, then it cannot evaluate whether the administration’s policies and actions are succeeding in helping asylum seekers accomplish that goal.

Between November 17, 2023 and March 17, 2023, the administration did succeed in substantially increasing the rates of exits from shelter, compared to the preceding months. This was good progress.

Exit rate from shelter

↑ exits per 1,000 people per day



However, going forward, if the council is not able to separate the evictions from other types of exits, the council will not be able to know whether the administration is building on its success in helping asylum seekers connect to housing within 60 days, or sliding backwards.

This ordinance is also wise to require detailed information about exits, particularly the number of days the individual has been in the shelter system. If a person exits on their 59th day, they might not be counted as being evicted, but it also may be reasonable to assume that they exited in order to avoid having their possessions and themselves forcibly set outside.

This ordinance preserves the council's ability to understand, oversee, and guide a critical city mission. Please pass it.

Sincerely, Forest Gregg

2. From Denali K Dasgupta :

Dear Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights:

I am writing today to urge the Committee to pass Ordinance O2024-0008386 out of committee with a recommendation to the City Council to pass the ordinance.

Consistent data, most notably information provided through the New Arrivals dashboard, has been critical in moving policy and improving operations for the shelter programs. Reporting required by this ordinance would allow for the oversight over the shelter system and advocacy for humane and dignified treatment of new arrivals and the responsible stewardship of public funding and powers.

The stated purpose of the new arrivals shelter system is to "provide a safe, accessible place to stay for New Arrivals experiencing homelessness to support them in moving toward stable housing" (from DFSS RFP #9335). Ordinance O2024-0008386 would requires daily reporting to council on the progress of newcomers through the City shelter system, including information about length of stay, TPS and ASERAP eligibility, eligibility for extension, notice of eviction, and detail about "eviction or other removal."

Delegate agencies who run shelter programs in Chicago are required to report comparable performance metrics such as client reason for leaving, client length of stay, and post- shelter destination. It is my hope that if DFSS cannot hold itself to the same standards it expects of its delegates, then the Council will use this ordinance to assist them.

Thank you for your consideration,

Denali K Dasgupta

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

COMMITTEE MEETING - MARCH 28, 2024

On March 28, 2024 at 10a, the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights held a Committee Meeting in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

ROLL CALL

The following committee members were present : Chairman Vasquez (40), Alderperson Dowell (3), Alderperson Gutierrez (14), Alderperson Rodriguez (22), Alderperson Fuentes (26), Alderperson Taliaferro (29), Alderperson Cruz (30), Alderperson Cardona (31), Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez (33), Alderperson Knudsen (43), Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth (48). A quorum was established.

Due to extenuating circumstances, Vice Chair Taylor (20) and Alderperson Hadden (49) requested to attend the Committee Meeting virtually in accordance with Rule 59 of the City Council's Rules of Order. Alderperson Cruz moved to allow Vice Chair Taylor and Alderperson Hadden to attend virtually; with no objections, the motion passed.

Due to extenuating circumstances, Alderperson Ramirez-Rosa (35) requested to attend the Committee Meeting virtually in accordance with Rule 59 of the City Council's Rules of Order. Alderperson Gutierrez moved to allow Alderperson Ramirez-Rosa to attend virtually; with no objections, the motion passed.

No committee members were absent.

The following non-members were present : Alderperson Lee (11), Alderperson Sigcho Lopez (25), Alderperson Villegas (36). Alderperson Lee attended virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public speakers were each given three minutes to provide their testimony : George Blakemore, Venus Young-Bey, Jessica Jackson, Zoe Leigh, Mrs. Yalila, Lawrence Jones, Ariana Abonce, Tiwon Sims, Michael Young Bey, Natasha Gray, Anthony Hutt, Silvia (AKA Big Sil) Saenz.

THE COMMITTEE ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

RULE 45 REPORT

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

Chair Vasquez introduced the January 2024 Rule 45 Report, then asked for a motion to approve the report. Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez so moved; with no objections, the Rule 45 Report was approved.

O2024-0008386

Department of Family and Support Services directed to provide City Council daily report of total New Arrivals and Asylum Seekers to be evicted or removed from shelters operated by City of Chicago

- Chairman Vasquez introduced the ordinance.
- Chairman Vasquez introduced a substitute ordinance, crafted to better reflect technical information learned in discussions with executive departments. Alderperson Rodriguez moved to accept the substitute ordinance; with no objections, the substitute ordinance was accepted.
- Chairman Vasquez introduced and presented the 'Daily Shelter Exit & Condition Reporting' slide deck.
- After the presentation, Chairman Vasquez opened the floor for Alderpersons to ask questions.
- The following committee members asked questions or made comments : Alderperson Dowell, Alderperson Gutierrez, Alderperson Cruz, Alderperson Knudsen. Alderperson Dowell recommended adding 'country of origin' data to the substitute ordinance's mandated daily report. Alderperson Cruz recommended changing the report from daily to weekly.
- Daniel Castañeda, Director for New Arrivals, Department of Family & Support Services, answered questions regarding the following : tracking new arrival country of origin data; tracking new arrival gender identity and sexual orientation data; Incident Report metric categories.
- Rey Phillips Santos, Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel, Department of Law, answered questions regarding the following : lawful reporting of country of origin data; lawful reporting of gender identity and sexual orientation data; recommended caution to keep data anonymized.
- Jonathan Ernst, First Deputy Commissioner, Department of Family and Support Services, answered questions regarding the following : effect of reporting on granting extensions; data integrity; difficulty of daily reporting.
- Chairman Vasquez answered questions regarding the following : effect of reporting on granting extensions; data integrity; Department of Technology and Innovation involvement; executive departments data tracking responsibility.
- Alderwoman Dowell moved to recess; the motion failed.
- Chairman Vasquez motioned to recess; the committee recessed to discuss and amend the substitute ordinance.

- The Committee reconvened from recess with an amended substitute ordinance. The following was amended :
 - frequency of the daily report was changed to weekly;
 - the weekly report was clarified to only track shelter exits due to the shelter stay limit;
 - the weekly report will include 'country of origin' data; and
 - biweekly was clarified to be defined as once every two weeks.
- Alderperson Rodriguez moved to accept the substitute ordinance as amended. Alder Vasquez asked committee members to vote by voice; in the opinion of the chair, the ayes won. The amended substitute ordinance was accepted.
- Chairman Vasquez asked if committee members had further questions.
- Alderperson Rodriguez moved to pass the substitute ordinance as amended. Alder Vasquez asked committee members to vote by voice; in the opinion of the chair, the ayes won. The amended substitute ordinance was passed.
- Chairman Vasquez will bring the substitute ordinance as amended to City Council on April 17, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

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