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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 : DECEMBER 2023

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 December 2023.

REFERRED MATTERS

PASSED

SR2023-0005289	Referred 10/16/2023	Call on federal government to issue work permits to both new migrants and long-term contributing immigrant workers
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HELD IN COMMITTEE

O2023-0005843	Referred 11/07/2023	Amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 2-173 entitled "Welcoming City Ordinance" by repealing it in its entirety
O2023-0005847	Referred 11/07/2023	Amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 2-173 entitled "Welcoming City Ordinance" by repealing it in its entirety
R2023-0006442	Referred 12/13/2023	Call for hearing(s) to review City's response to immigrant populations being marginalized

REPORTS AND MATERIALS RECEIVED BY COMMITTEE

1. 'Black Migration to the U.S.' slide deck provided by United African Organization.

2. 'The Coalition of Haitian-American Organizations in the Chicagoland Area' slide deck provided by The Coalition of Haitian-American Organizations in the Chicagoland Area.
3. 'CIRR presentation notes 12/7/2023' document provided by Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
4. 'Welcoming City Ordinance: Its Context, Who It Protects, And Why It Remains Important' slide deck provided by National Immigrant Justice Center.
5. 'Agenda of Matters' document from the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
6. Written public comment compilation from the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
7. September 2023 Rule 45 Report from the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
8. SR2023-0005289 document.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Received December 1, 2023 from Stephanie :

'Good Afternoon,

Regarding the Agenda matter of calling on the federal government to issue work permits for migrants both new and established. Why is the city council of Chicago seeking federal work permits for non-citizens? I, like pretty much everyone else in this city, descend from immigrants. The city should be focused on the native and legal immigrant populations and their needs at the moment. Instead it feels like these needs are being sacrificed to those of the current influx of migrants who are not here legally and seem to consist mostly of young, single men. That the children I do see on the streets are being used as pawns by the adults is equally unsettling. Many people feel this way, but we are also compassionate and know that circumstances are out of people's control and we want to help where we can. However, this current situation with the migrants who have been living on our streets and public properties for the last few months seems exploitative not only of the migrants, but taking advantage of the great citizens of this big hearted city as well.

Thank you.'

2. Received December 6, 2023 from William J Malan :

'Hon. Members of the Committee:

I oppose the issuance of work permits as stated in the Agenda and wish to appear before the Committee for public comment to express my view on the Agenda subject matter and my concerns with policy matters within the purview of the Committee.

Sincerely,

William J Malan'

3. Received December 6, 2023 from Sam Toia :

'Hello, my name is Sam Toia, and I am the President and CEO of the Illinois Restaurant Association.

- *The Hospitality Industry is the largest private sector employer in Illinois, but the industry is suffering from severe labor shortages.*
- *In fact, 62 percent of restaurants across the United States reported understaffing this year.*

- *With unemployment under 4%, severe labor shortages are hammering every restaurant and consumer due to Congress's failure to solve our immigration challenges.*
- *But luckily, the solution to this problem is already here. Millions of migrants and long-term undocumented immigrants are here and ready to work, but we need the government to make it possible.*
- *That is why the Illinois Restaurant Association is part of the national "Here to Work" coalition convened by the American Business Immigration Coalition.*
- *We are calling on President Biden to expand work permits for long term immigrant workers in Illinois to fill critical labor shortages and lower inflation.*
- *On average, long-term immigrants have lived and worked in Illinois for 15 years.*
- *Undocumented workers in Illinois pay an estimated \$900 million in federal taxes and \$700 million in state and local taxes. And they have never had a work permit.*
- *As an industry, we have fought to pass the Illinois TRUST Act, and we have fought to qualify undocumented immigrants for driver's licenses and in-state tuition.*
- *These smart, common-sense policies delivered monumental benefits to our City, our State, and our economy.*
- *Work permits are no different. It's a no brainer. It's good for businesses and good for immigrants.*
- *Thank you to the Chair and Members of the Committee for your leadership on this important subject.'*

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SUBJECT MATTER HEARING / COMMITTEE MEETING - DECEMBER 7, 2023

On December 7, 2023 at 9:00am, the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights held a Subject Matter Hearing / Committee Meeting in the City Council Chambers, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall. The Subject Matter Hearing discussed African migration, Haitian migration, and the history of the Welcoming City Ordinance.

ROLL CALL

The following committee members were present : Chair Vasquez (40), Alderperson Dowell (3), Alderperson Gutierrez (14), Alderperson Rodriguez (22), Alderperson Fuentes (26), Alderperson Taliaferro (29), Alderperson Cardona (31), Alderperson Ramirez-Rosa (35), Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth (48), Alderperson Hadden (49). A quorum was established.

Due to extenuating circumstances, Vice Chair Taylor, Alderperson Cruz, and Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez 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 Vice Chair Taylor, Alderperson Cruz, and Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez to attend virtually; with no objections, the motion passed.

The following committee members were absent : Alderperson Knudsen (43).

The following non-members were present : Alderperson Robinson (4), Alderperson Hall (6), Alderperson Lee (11), Alderperson Sigcho Lopez (25), Alderperson Burnett (27).

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public speakers were each given one minute to provide their testimony : Octavia Mitchell, George Blakemore, Bree Yoo-Sun McLuen, Tatiana Perez, Paulina Herrera, Karen Padilla, Eric Ramos, Pastor Emma Lozano, Esmeralda Alarcón, Brenda Solorzano, Reverend Dennis Langdon, Nino Brown, Mahalea Velasco, Sarah Uronsky, Sarah Uronsky, Frank Chapman, Reverend Sandra Castillo, Elsie Hernandez, Carlos Bossard, John Suprien, Zilagi Velasco, Becca Lubow, Sarah Tomas-Lemna, William Malan, Julieta Bolivar, Sam Toia, Syra Daniels, Serena Honaker, Elaine Lehman, Claudia Marchan.

THE COMMITTEE ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

RULE 45 REPORT

Approval of the September 2023 Rule 45 Report of the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

- Chair Vasquez introduced the September 2023 Rule 45 Report, then asked for a motion to approve the report. Alderperson Fuentes so moved; with no objections, the Rule 45 Report was approved.

R2023-0005289

Call on federal government to issue work permits to both new migrants and long-term contributing immigrant workers.

- Chair Vasquez introduced R2023-0005289, then introduced SR2023-0005289, a substitute resolution that updates R2023-0005289's language. Chair Vasquez asked for a motion to accept the substitute resolution; Alderperson Gutierrez so moved. Chair Vasquez asked committee members to vote by voice. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes won and the substitute resolution was accepted.
- Chair Vasquez introduced resolution sponsor Alderperson Fuentes.
- Chair Vasquez introduced :
 - Chris Bergin, Immigration Attorney, Bergin Law Office;
 - Eddy Almonord, Immigration Organizer, The Resurrection Project;
 - Jacqueline Villanueva, Labor Attorney, Chicago Workers Collaborative.
- Chris Bergin, Eddy Almonord, and Jacqueline Villanueva provided testimony in support of SR2023-0005289.
- The following committee members and non-members asked questions or made comments : Alderperson Sigcho Lopez, Alderperson Fuentes.

- Chair Vasquez asked for a motion to vote on SR2023-0005289; Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth so moved. Chair Vasquez asked committee members to vote by voice. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes won and the substitute resolution passed.
- Chair Vasquez will bring the resolution to City Council on December 13, 2023.

SUBJECT MATTER HEARING Discuss African migration, discuss Haitian migration, and discuss the history of the Welcoming City Ordinance.

AFRICAN MIGRATION

- Chair Vasquez introduced Fasika Alem, Programs Director of the United African Organization, who presented a slide deck titled 'Black Migration to the U.S.'
- The following committee members and non-members asked questions or made comments : Chair Vasquez, Alderperson Dowell, Alderperson Burnett.
- Fasika Alem answered questions, including questions regarding :
 - how long United African Organization has been assisting migrants in Chicago,
 - United African Organization's relationship with the City of Chicago.

HAITIAN MIGRATION

- Chair Vasquez introduced Aline Lauture, Project Coordinator for The Coalition of Haitian American Organizations in the Chicagoland Area, who presented a slide deck titled 'The Coalition of Haitian American Organizations in the Chicagoland Area.'
- The following committee members and non-members asked questions or made comments : Chair Vasquez, Alderperson Dowell, Alderperson Hall, Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth.
- Aline Lauture answered questions, including questions regarding :
 - housing for Haitian migrants,
 - employment for Haitian migrants,
 - language barrier issues,
 - long wait times for work permits,
 - why Haitians are leaving Haiti for the United States,
 - the coalition's relationship with the City of Chicago and the Mayor's Office.

WELCOMING CITY ORDINANCE

- Chair Vasquez introduced Fred Tsao, Senior Policy Council for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and Mark Fleming, Director of Litigation for the National Immigrant Justice Center. Fred Tsao spoke on immigration history and the Welcoming City Ordinance. Mark Fleming presented a slide deck titled 'Welcoming City Ordinance: Its Context, Who It Protects, And Why It Remains Important.'
- The following committee members and non-members asked questions or made comments : Chair Vasquez.
- Fred Tsao and Mark Fleming answered questions, including questions regarding :
 - federal immigration law,
 - taxation and representation.

ADJOURNMENT

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