



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

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RESOLUTION

Committee on Public Safety

WHEREAS, the corporate authorities of the City of Chicago are committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of their residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago seeks to incorporate emerging technologies to advance its stated commitments; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of software applications ("apps") for mobile devices has created an exciting and unprecedented opportunity for municipalities to embrace technology when making public policy; and

WHEREAS, the fire department in San Ramon, California has developed an app that allows individuals trained in CPR to sign up to receive text messages when someone nearby is suffering from cardiac arrest; and

WHEREAS, the app allows CPR trained individuals to map the location of the victim and any nearby automated external defibrillators; and

WHEREAS, nearly 40,000 people have downloaded the app, which is currently available on the iPhone and only operational in the San Ramon Valley; and

WHEREAS, developers are currently developing an Android version and are working to make the app available to fire departments across the country; and

WHEREAS, multiple for-profit and not-for-profit corporations are reportedly assisting in the efforts to expand the app's usage; and

WHEREAS, the corporate authorities of the City of Chicago recognize the potential of the app to save the lives of the approximately 300,000 people in the U.S. that go into cardiac arrest outside of a hospital each year; and

WHEREAS, medical professionals agree that the actions taken within the first few minutes of a heart attack are critical to a victim's survival; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Heart Association, brain damage and permanent death can occur 4 to 6 minutes after someone experiences cardiac arrest; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of a CPR app in Chicago would help victims of cardiac arrest receive immediate assistance from members of the public trained in CPR prior to the arrival of emergency medical responders and would notify trained members of the public of the location of nearby defibrillators; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management and Communications are hereby encouraged to explore the feasibility of developing and/or utilizing a CPR app in Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives from the Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management and Communications are hereby invited to appear before the Committee on Public Safety to testify at a hearing regarding the feasibility of developing and/or utilizing a CPR app in Chicago.