



City of Chicago



R2015-121

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:

3/18/2015

Sponsor(s):

Fioretti (2)
Foulkes (15)
Munoz (22)
Waguespack (32)
Arena (45)
Hairston (5)
Sposato (36)

Type:

Resolution

Title:

Governor Bruce Rauner and Illinois General Assembly urged to restore funding for universities, parks and public transportation

Committee(s) Assignment:

**RESOLUTION URGING THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR TO RETRACT REDUCTIONS
FOR UNIVERSITIES, PARKS & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

WHEREAS, The extreme austerity budget that is proposed by the newly-elected governor of the State of Illinois will cause immediate and irreparable harm to the citizens of this city, the state's largest and most important economic engine; and

WHEREAS, The governor has proposed cutting public university spending by close to \$400 million. This comes on the heels of comes the University of Illinois Board of Trustees order for a tuition freeze to give Illinois families financial relief from the rising costs of higher education in order to attract high-achieving Illinois students who are leaving the state for less expensive alternatives; and

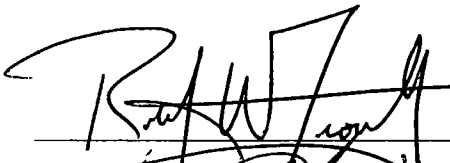

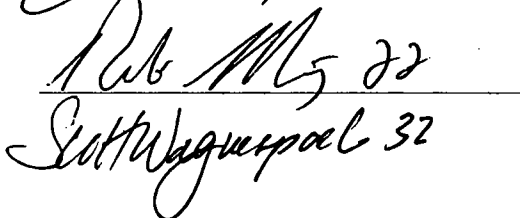
WHEREAS, The governor has further proposed a reduction of more than \$105 million, or roughly 7% of the Chicago Transit Authority's operating budget that would reverse improvements that agency has made in recent years. It has already cost the CTA approximately \$16 million for a plan implemented in late 2012 that added service on 48 bus routes and six rail lines, while eliminating service on 12 bus routes. The governor also proposes eliminating an \$8.5 million annual appropriation for ADA paratransit for the disabled, a loss of more than \$8.5 million; and


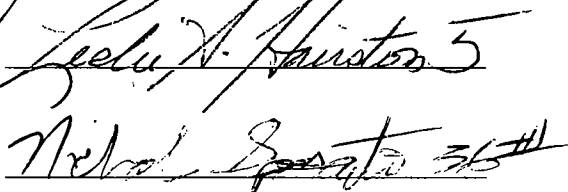
WHEREAS, The governor has frozen the funds of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that places in jeopardy Chicago Park District planned renovations to the artificial turf fields and facilities at Columbus Park, facility renovations at Archer, Dvorak, Garfield, Hamilton, Douglas, Eckhart, Robichaux, Holstein and Harris Parks and the Lincoln Cultural Center plus an expansion of Walsh Park and construction of an indoor track and field facility at Gately Park; and

WHEREAS, While recognizing the deficit that looms over this budget, it is imperative that the governor and legislators do not impede essential services these funds provide Chicago's citizens and find other means to address the budget's shortfall; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the mayor and undersigned members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 18th Day of March, 2015 AD do hereby urge the State of Illinois governor and legislators to restore the aforementioned funding to the budget and call on them to find alternatives to close the 2015 budgetary gap.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, the Honorable John J. Cullerton, President of the Illinois Senate and the Honorable Bruce V. Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois.


Robert Williams - 2nd ward
15th

Paul M. 22

Scott Wagners 32


Leoluca N. Austin 45

Nehal Bhatta 36th