



# City of Chicago



R2021-996

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	9/14/2021
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Villegas (36)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Call for Chicago Municipal Code Section 2-92-420 to include Middle Eastern or North African Americans as minority group
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	Committee on Contracting Oversight and Equity

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF CHICAGO 2-92-420 TO  
INCLUDE MENA AMERICANS AS A MINORITY GROUP**

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Census Bureau is the Nation’s leading provider of data collection on race and ethnicity, although, it does not include all of the Nation’s identified groups; and

**WHEREAS**, Specifically, the U.S. Census Bureau excludes Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) Americans (also referred to as Arab Americans) from its data; and

**WHEREAS**, The exclusion of MENA Americans from the U.S. Census Bureau has led to the inability for MENA Americans to obtain affirmative action resources provided to other historically disadvantaged groups; and

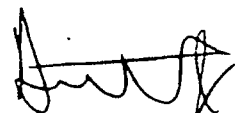
**WHEREAS**, The American Community Survey (ACS) revealed that MENA Americans have suffered pervasive society-wide prejudice and discrimination or practices, and that over time those conditions have resulted in economic deprivation; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Chicago is home to the fourth largest urban concentration of MENA American population in the United States, and according to the Illinois Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the Arab population in Chicago as of 2020 was around 150,000; and

**WHEREAS**, Government agencies; like the Illinois Department of Public Health, have recently expanded their data collection of race and ethnicity to include persons who self-identify as MENA American; and

**WHEREAS**, The Municipal Code of Chicago 2-92-420 has defined racial or ethnic minority groups as those identifying with “African-American or Blacks”, “Hispanics”, or “Asian-Americans” and has left an “Other” category to be “decided by the board to be socially or economically disadvantaged and to have suffered actual racial or ethnic discrimination and decreased opportunity to compete in Chicago area markets or to do business with the city”; and, now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, call on the Municipal Code of Chicago 2-92-420 to include MENA Americans as defined as a minority group within the code.



Gilbert Villegas  
Alderman, 36<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Principal Sponsor

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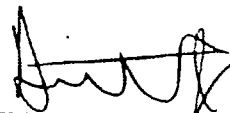
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