



Office of the Chicago City
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R2012-166

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 2/15/2012

Sponsor(s): Balcer, James (11)
And Others, And Others (0)

Type: Resolution

Title: Call for hearings on road accidents and fatalities

Committee(s) Assignment: Committee on Public Safety

Public Safety Comm.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 11-401 of the Illinois Vehicle Code requires the driver of any motor vehicle that is involved in an accident resulting in personal injury or death to immediately stop the vehicle and to remain at or near the scene of the accident in order to give information and to render aid. Section 11-403 extends this legal duty to drivers who are involved in an accident that results in damage to another vehicle; and

WHEREAS, To encourage compliance with these important legal duties, Illinois law imposes a stiff criminal penalty for their violation; and

WHEREAS, As a general rule, these legal requirements serve the laudable goal of promoting responsible behavior at the scene of an accident. However, in some instances, strict compliance with these requirements may not be in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, The experience of 13-year-old Arielle Starks is a case in point. After suffering an asthma attack, Ms. Starks was being transported by ambulance to a local hospital when another car collided with the ambulance at an intersection. Neither driver was seriously hurt. Both vehicles sustained minor damage, but were driveable. Nevertheless, because the ambulance driver was required by Illinois law to remain on the scene, another ambulance was called to continue Ms. Stark's transport to the hospital, delaying her arrival there by several minutes; and

WHEREAS, In such cases, it may not be in the public interest for the ambulance to stop, to remain on the scene, and to call for another ambulance to transport the patient to the hospital. Instead, if circumstances permit, and the journey to the hospital can proceed without endangering anyone's life, the ambulance driver should have the discretion, without fear of criminal or civil sanctions, to assess the situation, to call for assistance at the accident scene, and then to continue to the hospital, if feasible, and to file an accident report shortly after the patient has been safely transported; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this fifteenth day of February, 2012, do hereby direct the City Council Committee on Public Safety to hold hearings on this matter; and do hereby further urge Governor Quinn and the Illinois General Assembly to amend Sections 11-401 and 11-403 of the Illinois Vehicle Code along the lines recommended herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to Governor Patrick Quinn; Illinois Senate President John Cullerton; Illinois Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno; Speaker of the House Michael J. Madigan; and Illinois House Minority Leader Tom Cross.

John Thompson 16th
John Jones 18th
Maida Lopez 36th

James A. Balcer
Alderman James A. Balcer, 11th Ward
Allu Blocker 2012
Mark J. [Signature] 19

Ed [Signature] 14