



City of Chicago



R2014-206

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	4/2/2014
Sponsor(s):	O'Connor (40) Balcer (11)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Call on Committee on Public Safety to conduct hearings exploring entrance testing and training within Police and Fire Departments concerning hiring of qualified veterans
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Public Safety

City Council
April 2, 2014

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there are certain tests that applicants to the Chicago Police and Fire Departments must undergo in order to gain entrance to the respective academies; and

WHEREAS, those tests include a psychological evaluation which asks certain questions that pertain to the use and knowledge of firearms; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the tests is to determine whether an applicant is fit and qualified to serve the citizens of the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, not all applicants have the same experiences when it comes to the use of firearms; and

WHEREAS, the portion of the population that has served in the United States military will necessarily answer the questions pertaining to firearms differently than those individuals who are members of the civilian population; and

WHEREAS, the United States is engaged in past and current conflicts around the world where numerous service members have been stationed; and

WHEREAS, service members have returned home to Chicago with unique and valuable skills and training which could be beneficial to the Chicago Police Department, Fire Department, and the citizens of the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, these service members may never have the opportunity to utilize their skills as members of the Police Force or Fire Department because of their truthful answers to questions on the entrance exams involving firearms; and

WHEREAS, the tests were likely not drafted with past military service in mind; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Chicago who served our nation should not be excluded from serving the citizens of this City because of that service; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the City of Chicago assess the purpose and nature of the entrance exams to the Police and Fire academies and determine whether those tests unnecessarily exclude veterans and if so whether a different or modified test should be administered to those applicants who served in the United States Military; and

WHEREAS, currently, veterans are given a preference in the form of five (5) percent added to the final score of those applicants with a passing score for ranked examinations. For all other selection methods, applicants who meet all qualifications will be given preference in processing. A minimum of twenty (20) percent of those referred will be veterans provided there are a sufficient number of qualified veterans who applied; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Chicago to increase the preference for veterans by increasing the percentage added to the final score of those applicants with a passing score for ranked examinations from five (5) percent to at least ten (10) percent; and


WHEREAS, a larger percentage than twenty (20) percent of qualifying veterans should be referred for hire; and

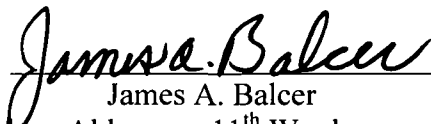
WHEREAS, a minimum of fifteen (15) percent of those hired should be veterans provided there are a sufficient number of qualified veterans who applied; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, that the City Council, through its Committee on Public Safety, conduct hearings exploring the entrance testing of the Police and Fire Departments, as well as the training provided to entrants, and make appropriate modifications to ensure that at least ten (10) percent is added to the final score of those applicants with a passing score for ranked examinations and at least fifteen (15) percent of those hired are veterans provided there are a sufficient number of qualified veterans who applied and were referred; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee on Public Safety invite appropriate representatives of the Chicago Police Department and Fire Department to testify concerning the testing procedures and officer training; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that invitations to testify be extended to appropriate representatives of the veteran community, in addition to such other persons as the Committee may determine to be appropriate.


Patrick J. O'Connor
Alderman, 40th Ward


James A. Balcer
Alderman, 11th Ward