



# City of Chicago



R2014-813

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 11/5/2014

**Sponsor(s):** Emanuel (Mayor)  
Burke (14)  
Reboyas (30)  
Burnett (27)  
Maldonado (26)  
Sposato (36)  
Austin (34)  
Mell (33)  
Waguespack (32)  
Suarez (31)  
Cochran (20)  
Harris (8)  
Holmes (7)  
Quinn (13)  
Lane (18)  
O'Shea (19)  
Thomas (17)  
Tunney (44)  
Hairston (5)  
Solis (25)  
Chandler (24)  
Zalewski (23)  
Munoz (22)  
O'Connor (40)  
Laurino (39)  
Dowell (3)  
Fioretti (2)  
Moreno (1)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Call for hearing(s) on unauthorized and improper telephone calls to election judges in connection with November 4, 2014 election

**Committee(s) Assignment:** Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

November 5, 2014

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Alderman Burke and others, a resolution regarding unauthorized and improper automated telephone calls made to election judges in conjunction with the November 4, 2014 election.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor



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## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, President Thomas Jefferson once observed that: "The elective franchise, if guarded as the ark of our safety, will peaceably dissipate all combinations to subvert a Constitution, dictated by the wisdom, and resting on the will of the people;" and

**WHEREAS**, Maintaining the integrity of the electoral process is key to any well-functioning democracy;

**WHEREAS**, Yesterday, the Chicago Board of Elections announced that many Chicago area voters were not able to cast ballots Tuesday morning due to polling places opening late; and

**WHEREAS**, Chicago Board of Election Commissioners Chairman Langdon Neal indicated that the problem was due to a lack of election judges. The board had planned for 10,000 election judges to be assigned for Tuesday's election, and an unprecedented number of those judges did not show up; and

**WHEREAS**, The failure of 2,000 election judges to report to duty is believed to have been the result of malicious robocalls made to election judges over the weekend, falsely informing them that they had to report for training, or they would not be able to serve on Election Day; and

**WHEREAS**, In other cases, dozens of judges reported receiving calls demanding that they vote in a certain way in order to serve as an election judge. Some judges quit after receiving this misinformation; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Neal indicated that at least one precinct in all 50 wards experienced a problem with election judges not showing up, with the result that some voters, who did not have the luxury of waiting to vote until standby judges arrived at their polling place, were either unable to vote or were discouraged from voting; and

**WHEREAS**, It is clear that the bogus automated telephone calls that were made over the weekend were intended to disrupt the election and to keep vote totals down in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, While the Board of Elections acted as quickly as it could to take steps to redress this grievous wrong by asking a court to extend voting at six Chicago polling stations, the fact remains that people's right to vote was negatively affected in yesterday's election and, in some cases, outright denied; and

**WHEREAS**, While the City of Chicago has asked law enforcement authorities to investigate this matter, it is also critical that the public be fully informed of what actions took place, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That We, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this fifth day of November, 2014, do hereby direct the Committee on

Committees, Rules and Ethics to hold a hearing on the matter described herein, with a view toward determining who was responsible for placing these automated calls; who paid for the calls to be made; and how and by whom the names and telephone numbers of the election judges were obtained; and, to call upon appropriate persons to testify relative to this matter.

~~Debra~~ 30  
Walter 27th  
Robert M. Miller 26  
Nelson 30th  
Carrie M. Austin 34  
Dehl 17 Mill 33  
Scott Aguirre 32  
Ray Leung 31st  
Della B Cochran 20th  
Michelle A. Harris 8th  
Natasha W. Allen 7th  
Mae 13  
Lore Lane 18th  
Mary 19  
Arthur 17

Edward M. Barker  
Joe 44  
Leslie N. Hapston 5th  
Daniel Salin 25th  
Michael D. Clark 26th  
Pamela 23  
Ruth 22  
Patrick J. Connor 40th  
Margaret Laurino 39th  
Pat Dowell, 3rd  
Ruth W. 2nd  
Joe Morano 1st

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