



City of Chicago



O2017-8242

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:

11/8/2017

Sponsor(s):

Burke (14)
Austin (34)
Reilly (42)
Laurino (39)
Harris (8)
Ervin (28)
Hairston (5)
Curtis (18)
Waguespack (32)
Quinn (13)
Lopez (15)
Thompson (11)

Type:

Ordinance

Title:

Amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 8-4 by adding new
Section 8-4-084 regarding bullying and harassment

Committee(s) Assignment:

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is a home rule unit of government pursuant to the 1970 Illinois Constitution, Article VII, Section 6(a); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule power, the City of Chicago may exercise any power and perform any function relating to its government and affairs including the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, harassment and intimidation have no place in in the education, professional, and public settings that we strive to protect; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of social media is a double edged sword, not only allowing for a more accurate reflection of the scope of the issue but, in many cases, amplifying the impact of this behavior; and

WHEREAS, an unequivocal stance against this behavior is overdue; and

WHEREAS, bullying among youth is an issue with which schools have long grappled; and

WHEREAS, the discourse has moved from playgrounds to legislative chambers; and

WHEREAS, *Newsweek Magazine* reported on October 13, 2017 that cities in New York and Wisconsin have passed measures that criminalize bullying; and

WHEREAS, under the ordinances passed in North Tonawanda, New York, and Shawano, Wisconsin, parents face repercussions of fines or jail time for instances of bullying; and

WHEREAS, *Newsweek* further reported that more than two-thirds of adolescents from more than 18 countries reported being bullied in 2016 and also cited a 2016 American Academy of Pediatrics report which found that bullying and cyberbullying contributed to teen suicide; and

WHEREAS, that bullying does not end with adulthood is reflected in the impetus for anti-harassment ordinances like those enacted in Seattle, Washington, and the City of Lakewood, Colorado as well as in criminal codes throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, this City Council seeks to offer more accessible redress to individuals who may be subject to this form of abuse on a near constant basis and for whom seeking criminal sanctions is a remote or inaccessible recourse; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to ensure that individuals are free to pursue basic rights and privileges free from arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory intimidation tactics; NOW
THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Chapter 8-4 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by inserting Section 8-4-084, as follows:

8-4-084 Bullying and Harassment.

(a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:


“Bullying” is a form of harassment and is defined as an intentional act that causes harm to others that may involve verbal harassment, verbal or non-verbal threats, physical assault, stalking, or other methods of coercion which are reasonably likely to intimidate, emotionally abuse, slander, or threaten another person.


“Harassment” means an unwanted and hurtful action which can include unwelcome conduct such as verbal abuse, graphic or written statements, threats, physical assault, sexual advances, request for sexual favors, conduct of a sexual nature or other conduct that is threatening or humiliating related to the person’s race, color, religion, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, age, disability, or national origin.

(b) *Prohibition.* No person shall engage in any bullying or harassment of a person or induce another person to engage in such bullying or harassment.

(c) *Penalties.* Any person who shall violate any provision of this section shall be fined not less than \$100 but not more than \$250 for a first offense. Any subsequent violation shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$250 but not more than \$500.

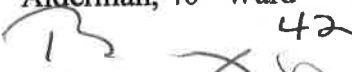
SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon passage and approval.



Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward

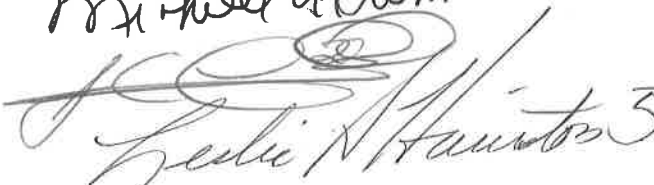

Carrie M. Austin
Alderman, 34th Ward

Patrick J. O'Connor
Alderman, 40th Ward

Gilbert Villegas
Alderman, 36th Ward


Margaret Lawrence
Michelle Adams 8th


Scott Waggoner
Marty Gunn 13


Heidi Hantke 5


Ray [unclear] 15
Kent [unclear] 11