



# City of Chicago



R2021-78

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	1/27/2021
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Sadlowski Garza (10) Beale (9)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Call for hearing(s) on operations, funding and staffing composition of Illinois International Port District
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois General Assembly authorized the creation of port districts in the State of Illinois in 1951, with the Port of Chicago as the first such port to be created, and would eventually become the Illinois International Port District ("IIPD"); and

**WHEREAS**, the IIPD has historical served as one of the most significant ports in North America, including as the second most significant port in the Great Lakes region; and

**WHEREAS**, the IIPD is responsible for Foreign Trade Zone No. 22, a federally-mandated trade area spanning 8 counties in Illinois, and lies in or near the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Wards of the City of Chicago, with land, rail, and sea access to destinations foreign and domestic; and

**WHEREAS**, the IIPD was created by the State of Illinois to be an engine of economic stimulus for the region, garnering an estimated \$1.2 billion in personal income, business revenue, state and federal taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, in the previous four years, the IIPD reduced its debt by over 61%, while revenue was increased by 22%, despite the decline of business and manufacturing in surrounding areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the IIPD has engaged in a Master Plan, which was the first of its kind to be included in the State of Illinois' capital bill; and

**WHEREAS**, the IIPD has embarked on its first capital project since 1981, the Butler Drive Rehabilitation project, which utilizes an estimated \$11 million in state funding, and over \$3 million in TIF funding from the City of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, the IIPD has been without an Executive Director since October 23, 2020, which was shortly followed by the Executive Assistant; and

**WHEREAS**, the IIPD is governed by a nine member Board, which includes five members appointed by the Mayor of Chicago with the advice and consent of the Chicago City Council; and

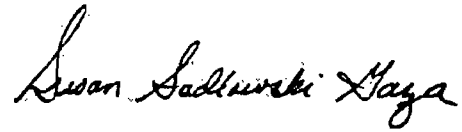
**WHEREAS**, the IIPD lies within the jurisdiction of the City of Chicago, receives significant funding from the City budget, and has a key impact on the commercial and trade capacity of one of the largest economies in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the IIPD has been without an effective administration for several months, and without an accounting of the process for replacement of staff as well as the status of its budget; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the members of the City of Chicago, do hereby call for the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology development to convene a hearing concerning the state of the Illinois International Port District, its operations, funding, and staffing composition; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That we call upon the members of the IIPD Board to attend this meeting and provide an accounting of the operations and finances of the IIPD in accordance with the principles of good government, financial responsibility, and the residents of the City of Chicago for whom the IIPD provides economic opportunity in the future.

To be referred to the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development



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Susan Sadlowski Garza,  
Alderwoman, 10<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Chairwoman, Committee on Workforce Development



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Anthony Beale,  
Alderman, 9<sup>th</sup> Ward



**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF CHICAGO**

Council Chamber • Second Floor - City Hall  
121 North LaSalle Street, Chicago IL 60602  
City Council Phone: (312) 744 - 6800

**SUSAN SADLOWSKI GARZA  
ALDERWOMAN, 10TH WARD**

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Chicago, Illinois 60617  
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**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

**CHAIRWOMAN, COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Committee on Finance  
Committee on Budget and Government Operations  
Committee on Committees and Rules  
Committee on Education and Child Development  
Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy  
Committee on Ethics and Good Governance  
Committee on Human Relations and Health  
Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs, and Recreation

Dear Alderman Villegas,

Honorable Chairman of the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development,

I, along with my colleague Ald. Beale, am writing this letter as a formal request to schedule a hearing, as soon as possible concerning, the state of the Illinois International Port District (IIPD) in the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development.

As you may be aware, the previous Executive Director of the IIPD left on October 23, 2020. Despite the fact that the Port serves as a vital commercial link between the City of Chicago and partners in the Midwest and abroad, the absence of staff has left the city in the dark as to the future plans for this institution. Furthermore, considering the majority of the IIPD's Board is appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Chicago City Council, it is imperative that we receive an up-to-date report on the finances and operation of the IIPD.

Attached you will find a resolution, which will be presented the City Council, calling for a hearing on the state of the IIPD, as well as calling on the Board to attend and provide an accounting of the situation. We owe it to the residents of Chicago to ensure that this critical engine of economic growth and opportunity, partly funded by their tax dollars, is being run in an open, efficient, and transparent manner.

Sincerely,

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Susan Sadlowski Garza,

Alderdwoman, 10<sup>th</sup> Ward,

Chairwoman of the Committee on Workforce Development



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Anthony Beale,  
Alderman, 9<sup>th</sup> Ward

The following legislation is being introduced by Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski Garza regarding W10 Resolution - Calling for a Hearing Concerning the IIPD co-sponsored by

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Alderman Ward 1

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Alderman Ward 8

Anthony Beale

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Alderman Ward 9

Susan Sadlowski Garza

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Alderman Ward 10

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Alderman Ward 22

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Alderman Ward 23

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Alderman Ward 44

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Alderman Ward 49

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Alderman Ward 50

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Mayor Lightfoot

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Clerk Valencia