

to require notaries to forward the records of every property transfer they notarize to the Recorder of Deeds office. She has also worked tirelessly to raise public awareness of the crime; and

WHEREAS, Despite Recorder Yarbrough's efforts, Illinois law requires Recorders of Deeds to record any document presented to them with the needed information and fees. Recorders are forbidden to investigate the authenticity of documents before recording; and

WHEREAS, House Thieves typically hide their true identities behind aliases and sham corporations; and

WHEREAS, Time is of the essence in apprehending House Thieves, because by the time the true homeowners become aware of the crime and followed the legal process to correct it, the perpetrators moved on to a new identity, taking the proceeds of sham sales or mortgages with them; now therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Chicago gathered here on this 28th Day of May, 2014, call on Cook County Recorder of Deeds Karen A. Yarbrough to take the further step of requiring people to provide valid government-issued photo identification, including identification described in §2-173-040 of the Municipal

Code, along with valid documentation of their current address when presenting documents for recording; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council call on Recorder Yarbrough to maintain copies of said identification in order to aid investigations of suspected fraud; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be provided to Cook County Recorder of Deeds Karen A. Yarbrough.

Chicago City Council Co-Sponsor Addition/Change

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Date Filed

Final copies to be filed with:

- Chairman of Committee to which legislation was referred
- City Clerk

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Committees, Rules and Ethics (Vice-Chairman)

Aviation

Budget and Government Operations Finance

Transportation and Public Way Workforce Development and Audit Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards

**July 30, 2014
CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS**

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Your Committee on Housing and Real Estate which was referred a Resolution, by Alderman Patrick J. O'Connor (40th Ward), Alderman Matt O'Shea (19th Ward), Alderman Ray Suarez (31st Ward), Alderman Lona Lane (18th Ward), Alderman John A. Pope (10th Ward), Alderman Ariel E. Reboyras (30th Ward), Alderman Pat Dowell (3rd Ward) and Alderman Timothy M. Cullerton (38th Ward) calling on the Cook County Recorder of Deeds to enforce stronger investigative measures of authenticity of documents presented to prevent fraudulent liens against homes to extort money from homeowners. (R2014-448)

Having the same under advisement, begs leave to report and recommend that Your Honorable Body Pass the proposed resolution transmitted herewith.

This recommendation was concurred in by a unanimous vote of the members of the committee present with no dissenting votes.

Ray Siiafez, Chairperson
Committee on Housing & Real Estate