

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is a home rule unit of local government under the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and !

WHEREAS, the City has determined it to be in the best interests of the City to provide employment opportunities for ex-offenders; and

WHEREAS, the City, through its Department of Finance, is responsible for the collection of various debts due and owing to the City, and has a need for collection services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance has previously engaged a collection agency which employs ex-offenders to provide call center and invoicing operations to assist with City's debt collection for various debt types; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance wishes to continue to provide employment opportunities in collections services for ex-offenders and seeks ongoing authority to engage collection agencies that employ ex-offenders; now therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The above recitals are incorporated as if set forth fully herein.

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SECTION 2. Chapter 2-32 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by adding a new section 2-32-082, shown in underscored text as follows:

2-32-082 Comptroller - debt collection contracts employing ex-offenders.

(a) The city comptroller is authorized, subject to the availability of duly appropriated funds, to negotiate and enter into contracts from time to time with one or more collection agencies which employ ex-offenders to perform debt collection services on the City's behalf (for purposes of this section. "Services").

*b) A collection agency shall not be eligible to contract with the City pursuant to this section unless all ex-offenders it employs to perform Services have been trained and screened for employment by one or more not-for-profit corporations that provide appropriate ex-offender training and screening services. *

c) As a prerequisite to entering into contracts pursuant to this section, the Comptroller shall establish and apply standards of conduct and performance that the applicable not-for-profit corporation and collection agency must meet.

d) The contracts authorized by this section may contain terms that the Comptroller determines to be reasonable and appropriate, including terms governing reasonable compensation. Compensation for Services may, in the discretion of the Comptroller, include payment based upon a percentage of debts collected that are attributable to Services performed by ex-offenders. !

SECTION 3. This ordinance takes effect upon its passage and approval.