



# Office of the City Clerk

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## Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** R2017-820  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Status:** Failed to Pass  
**File created:** 10/11/2017  
**In control:** City Council  
**Final action:**  
**Title:** Call for hearing(s) on alleged claims against Department of Water regarding discriminatory and hostile practices  
**Sponsors:** Moore, David H.  
**Indexes:**  
**Attachments:** 1. R2017-820.pdf

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
5/29/2019	1	City Council	Failed to Pass	
10/11/2017	1	City Council	Referred	

Committee on Human Relations

### Chicago Water Department Resolution for Hearings on Racism and Discrimination Within the Department

WHEREAS, the Chicago Department of Water Management is responsible for delivering nearly 1 billion gallons of fresh water to the residents of Chicago and 125 suburban communities; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Department of Water Management is responsible for removing the waste water and storm runoff from the streets of Chicago through the sewer system, and delivering effluent for treatment to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the Inspector General launched an eight-month investigation into the culture within the Water Department after allegations of racism were made; and

WHEREAS, several Water Department managers resigned after the Inspector General investigation; and

WHEREAS, a federal lawsuit was filed on behalf of seven current and former employees of the department seeking class-action status; and

WHEREAS, the employees in the federal lawsuit allege that because of their race, they were denied promotions and transfer, given less-desirable work assignments, harassed and wrongly fired in some cases; and

WHEREAS, plaintiffs claim that non-black managers and employees subject black employees to racial slurs and racially charged phrases and in some cases, were subject to undue disciplinary hearings in retaliation for speaking out; and

WHEREAS, the lawsuit alleges that the Water Department did nothing to remedy the hostile work

environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago and Water Department spokesperson contend that they have no tolerance for discrimination of employees in any form,

BE IT SO RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council as responsible for ensuring our departments operate with the highest level of integrity and root out racist, discriminatory and otherwise hostile practices in our department, request a full hearing to determine the scope of the alleged claims against the Water Department as well as information on efforts to remedy said claims.

Committee on Human Relations

Aid. Toni Foulkes (16<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Derrick Curtis (18<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Matt O'Shea (19<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Willie Cochran (20<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Howard Brookins Jr. (21<sup>st</sup> Ward)

Aid. Ricardo Munoz (22<sup>nd</sup> Ward)

Aid. Gregory Mitchell (7<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Michael Scott Jr. (24<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Anthony Beale (9<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Susan Sadlowski-Garza (10<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Patrick Daley Thompson (11<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. George Cardenas (12<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Chris Taliaferro (29<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Ariel Reboyas (30<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Raymond Lopez (15<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Committee on Human Relations

Aid. Scott Waguespack (32<sup>nd</sup> Ward)

Aid. Harry Osterman (48<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Deborah Mell (33<sup>rd</sup> Ward)

Aid. Joseph Moore (49<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Carrie Austin (34<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Debra Silverstein (50<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Gilbert Villegas (36<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Emma Mitts (37<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Nicholas Sposato (38<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Margaret Laurino (39 Ward)

Aid. Patrick O'Connor (40<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Anthony Napolitano (41<sup>st</sup> Ward)

Aid. Brendan Reilly (42<sup>nd</sup> Ward)

Aid. Michele Smith (43<sup>rd</sup> Ward)

Aid. Thomas Tunney (44<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. John Arena (45<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. James Cappleman (46<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Aid. Ameya Pawar (47<sup>th</sup> Ward)