Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	SR2017-911		
Type:	Resolution	**Status:**	Adopted
File created:	11/8/2017	**In control:**	City Council
		Final action:	12/13/2017
Title:	Call for establishment of Chicago Vehicular Terrorism Task Force		
Sponsors:	Burke, Edward M., Reboyras, Ariel		
Indexes:	COMMITTEE/PUBLIC HEARINGS		
Attachments:	1. R2017-911.pdf, 2. SR2017-911.pdf		

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
12/13/2017	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass
12/11/2017	1	Committee on Finance	Substituted in Committee	
11/8/2017	1	City Council	Referred	

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, terrorism has been a singularly powerful thief of peace and security in our time; and

WHEREAS, the world has responded to large scale efforts such as plane hijackings and devastating bombings with corresponding comprehensive precautions; and

WHEREAS, we now see groups and individuals resorting to the use of seemingly innocuous tools to carry out their terrorist acts; and

WHEREAS, notably, readily available motor vehicles have been weaponized to devastating effects; and

WHEREAS, the New York Times reported that a propaganda magazine of the terror group ISIS "called vehicles one of the 'safest and easiest weapons one could employ' to carry out a lethal attack;" and

WHEREAS, this efficacy has unfortunately been proven far too many times; and

WHEREAS, on October 31, 2017 a terrorist drove on to a bike path in New York City's Lower Manhattan neighborhood, leaving eight (8) people dead and at least twelve (12) injured; and

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2017, terrorists drove a van on to Las Ramblas, the famed pedestrian walkway in Barcelona, Spain, killing at least thirteen (13) and injuring one hundred and thirty (130) more; and

WHEREAS, at an August 12, 2017 white nationalist demonstration in Charlottesville, Virginia, a man drove a car into a crowd of counter protestors, killing a thirty-two year old woman and injuring nineteen (19) people; and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2017, a terrorist targeted a group of soldiers in a suburb of Paris, France, injuring six (6); and

WHEREAS, on June 3,2017, terrorists drove onto a London bridge sidewalk ultimately killing eight (8) and injuring forty eight (48); and

WHEREAS, earlier that year in London, on March 22, another terrorist drove onto Westminster Bridge, killing four (4) pedestrians before running on foot and stabbing an unarmed police officer; and

WHEREAS, on April 7,2017, a hijacked truck was used to drive into a group of shoppers in Stockholm, Sweden, ultimately killing five (5); and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2016, a terrorist drove a tractor trailer into a Bastille Day celebration in Nice, France, and killed eighty-six (86) people; and

WHEREAS, on December 19,2016, a hijacked truck was used to kill twelve (12) people in a Christmas market in Berlin, Germany; and

WHEREAS, responding to this specific type of threat and to protect pedestrian passage ways from cars, New York and the cities of Las Vegas and New Orleans are taking precautions that include the installation of barriers and posts; and

WHEREAS, according to a November 2017 Wall Street Journal report on vehicle attacks, recommendations from groups such as fusion centers (collaborations of public and private agencies in various areas of the country that evaluate and coordinate terror threat information and responses) include establishing guidelines for reporting suspicious vehicle rentals to police and asking police about stolen "heavy-duty" vehicles in the vicinity of large gatherings; and

WHEREAS, in other instances, authorities have "blockaded" large group gatherings with sizeable trucks from their own fleets; and

WHEREAS, vehicular terrorism depends on unsuspecting targets and counts with readily accessible weaponry; and

WHEREAS, these elements complicate preventative efforts, which therefore require expertise from a broad range of sources and sectors; and

WHEREAS, this City Council is entrusted with securing the safety and enjoyment of individuals in the public way and at public events; and

WHEREAS, it further appreciates that discretion is a hallmark of effective counter-terrorism efforts; and

WHEREAS, the members of this City Council nonetheless seek to ensure that the City of Chicago has a considered and comprehensive plan specific to the threat of vehicular terrorism; and

powered by Legistar™

WHEREAS, said plan is to consider elements such as the size, location, and access and egress points of large public gatherings and heavily trafficked pedestrian areas; and

WHEREAS, the City's vehicular terrorism response plan should also contemplate the types of vehicles that are likely to be used in these instances, the manner in which they can be obtained, and the circumstances and methods through which information regarding instances fitting these characteristics should be communicated; and

WHEREAS, recent months are rife with tragic examples of how no city, no landmark, and no event is safe from this type of threat; and

WHEREAS, it is the City Council's objective that, with respect to these acts of terror, the City of Chicago always hold true to "never here," and forsake the need for a "never again;" now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby calls upon pertinent City officials, departments, and sister agencies to assemble a Chicago Vehicular Terrorism Task Force. The Task Force shall be called to order by the Chicago Police Department and other members shall include the respective Chairmen of the City Council Committee on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety, Committee on Public Safety, Committee on Transportation and the Public Way, Committee on Budget and Government Operations, and Committee on Finance. Other members shall include a designee of the Office of Emergency Management and Communications, a designee of the Department of Transportation, a designee of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and two appointees designated by the Mayor. The Task Force shall additionally consult with the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Transit Authority, and any such other department or sister agency as may inform its findings or implementation of those findings.

SECTION 2. The Task Force shall issue a Chicago Vehicular Terrorism Response Plan that shall address topics including but not limited to the following:

a) **Locations and Events Analysis. The Task Force shall develop a procedure to survey City of Chicago locations and events and issue findings regarding the sufficiency of generally applicable existing requirements and recommended requirements regarding (i) size limitation of grounds and/or attendees, (ii) access points and means of egress, (iii) barrier or blockage points and methods, and (iv) public signage.**

b) **Communications. Evaluate existing communication flow among City agencies regarding terror threats, with plans to specifically incorporate vehicular terror threat reports. Specific consideration shall be made of a "terrorism tip line" available for reports from the general public.**

c) **Public Awareness. The Task Force shall evaluate the role and impact of awareness campaigns to educate the public and businesses such as vehicle rental companies on how to identify risk factors, how to report them, and how to react in circumstances of vehicular terrorism.**

powered by Legistar™

Edward M. Burke Alderman, 14th Ward

SECTION 3. The Task Force shall report its findings to the Committee on Finance within one hundred and twenty (120) days. Provided, however, that the Task Force and its individual participants shall not be obligated to report on measures when such public disclosure would jeopardize the counterterrorism or other law enforcement efforts of any local, state, or federal ^6yernmental agency.

Ariel E. Reboyras Alderman, 30th Ward

CHICAGO December 13,2017

To the President and Members of the City Council:

Your Committee on Finance having had under consideration

A proposed substitute resolution calling for pertinent City officials, departments, and sister agencies to assemble a Chicago Vehicular Terrorism Task Force.

R2017-911

Having had the same under advisement, begs leave to report and recommend that your Honorable Body pass the proposed Substitute Resolution Transmitted Herewith

This recommendation was concurred in by (awjva voce vote") of members of the committee with dissenting vote(s).

Respectfully submitted

7

(signed^ ^

Chairman

powered by Legistar™