



Office of the City Clerk

City Hall
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Legislation Text

File #: R2015-102, Version: 1

Intro - 3-ir-20t5

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have served our Country with distinction and courage. It is incumbent upon government to assist these loyal Americans as they return from their tours of duty by making the transition back to civilian life as easy as possible; and

WHEREAS, The wounds often endured by the members of our Armed Forces demonstrate clearly the sacrifice inherent in military service. Many of our returning veterans bear the scars of combat, both on their bodies and in the form of post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, Prior to January of 2014, if an individual was eligible for a disabled parking placard or plate, he or she also received a waiver of the parking fee in metered zones in conjunction with the display of that placard or plate; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the General Assembly passed legislation, effective January of 2014, that drastically changed the law regarding free parking for those with disability placards or plates. The law, intended to thwart those who would cheat the system, limits the availability of free metered parking to people whose physical limitations prevent ready access to payboxes; and

WHEREAS, While the new law is commendable in addressing instances in which unscrupulous people take unfair advantage of the parking rules, nonetheless it has wrought a practical and financial inconvenience on our City's disabled veterans, who need and merit our help and support; and

WHEREAS, Restoring free metered parking to our veterans with service-related disabilities, including post-traumatic stress disorder, is a small step we can take to show our gratitude and respect for their valiant service and acknowledge their daily hardships; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this eighteenth day of March, 2015, do hereby urge the Illinois General Assembly to pass legislation restoring a metered parking fee waiver for our veterans with a service-related disability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council, through its Committee on Human

Relations, hold one or more hearings to discuss this important issue facing our veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Clerk is directed to provide suitable copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Illinois, the President of the Illinois Senate, the Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate, the Speaker of the Illinois House of

Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives as a sign of our concern for this important issue.

JAMES BALCER Alderman, 11th Ward