



# Office of the City Clerk

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## Legislation Text

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### ORDINANCE

#### **Amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 4-340 by adding new Section 4-340-105 requiring special policemen at the airports to carry firearms**

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is responsible for ensuring public safety at O'Hare International and Midway Airports; and

WHEREAS, City of Chicago police officers are the primary law enforcers at the airports; and

WHEREAS, these officers are supported by approximately three hundred unarmed aviation police officers ("APOs"); and

WHEREAS, APOs are certified by the state and annually required to be qualified to carry a firearm; and

WHEREAS, APOs are licensed as special policeman and are appointed as such on an annual basis by the City's Superintendent of Police; and

WHEREAS, it is long-standing City policy that APOs do not carry firearms while on duty, although they may choose to carry a weapon while off-duty; and

WHEREAS, because APOs are unarmed, when they encounter an armed individual they must request assistance from a Chicago police officer. Furthermore, there is a standing order that in the event of an active shooter APOs are to "run and hide", which is contrary to what police are trained to do; and

WHEREAS, all other major cities have officers at their airports who carry firearms; and

**WHEREAS, armed APOs could do a better job of ensuring public safety and allow some police officers currently at the airports to be reassigned to provide much needed assistance in crime torn neighborhoods in Chicago; NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 4-340 of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago is hereby amended by creating Section 4-340-105 by inserting the language underlined as follows:

#### **Q 4-430-105 Special police at the airnorts.**

The uniform of every special policeman at the City's airports shall include a firearm provided by the

special policeman. The firearm must meet the current requirements for firearms carried by sworn officers of the Chicago Police Department.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be effective 90 days after its passage and publication.

Chris Taliaferro Alderman, 29<sup>th</sup> Ward