



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

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RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEARINGS TO ADDRESS THE CONTINUING HIV CRISIS IN CHICAGO'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the most recent available statistics place HIV disease as one of the top five leading causes of death in African American women between the ages of 35 to 44 and the seventh ranking cause in African American women between the ages of 20 to 34; and

WHEREAS, according to the Chicago Department of Public Health, this city's African Americans are afflicted with more than half of the newly diagnosed HIV and AIDS cases. Non-Hispanic African Americans were the most frequently diagnosed population, representing 58.5% of new HIV diagnoses, 56.4% of AIDS diagnoses, and 55.2% of late diagnoses; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the highest rates of new individual HIV infection diagnoses occurred in the predominantly African American neighborhoods of Douglas, Grand Boulevard, Kenwood, North Lawndale, Washington Park, and West Garfield Park; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that action be taken to halt new HIV infections among these at-risk African American men and women which continues at an alarming rate of more than 80% while new cases of such infections among the corresponding at-risk Caucasian demographic has dramatically decreased to a current rate of less than 20%; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the Chicago Department of Public Health has determined that this at-risk population is one of the 5 demographics selected for funding beginning in early 2019 for support of community development initiatives. It is also imperative that the voices of those most imminently affected by this important health issue be heard before the awarding of any funding is considered; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the undersigned members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered on the 20th Day of September, 2018 AD, do hereby call upon the Commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Public Health to expeditiously convene public hearings in the council chambers as well as within the communities so affected in order to take testimony from experts and the public concerning the amelioration of this disturbing and reversible public health threat.

RODERICK T. SAWYER Alderman - 6th Ward

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to Dr. Julie Morita, M.D., Commissioner of Public Health.