



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

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Committee on Health and Human Relations

July 22, 2020 City Council Meeting

RESOLUTION: EXPRESSION OF OPPOSITION TO CITIZENS ACADEMY TRAINING TO BE HELD BY IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN CHICAGO

WHEREAS, On July 8 an email from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) inviting Illinois stakeholders to participate in the agency's new Enforcement and Removal Operations Citizens Academy (ERO-ECA) was circulated on social media; and

WHEREAS, The invitation explained that program participants will "gain insight into the responsibilities of ICE/ERO operations", and "appreciation of the issues officers face every day;" and

WHEREAS, The invitation also contained incredibly troublesome language including that the program will have "scenario-based training and exercises conducted in a safe and positive environment, including, but not limited to defensive tactics, firearms familiarization and targeted arrests;" and

WHEREAS, Chicago is a sanctuary city because immigrant rights activists and communities have made it one; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is committed to protecting our undocumented neighbors, and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our immigrant communities; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, oppose and condemn this effort to recruit vigilantes in our communities and train them on how to separate families and collaborate in the destruction of our social fabric; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we demand the cancellation of the Citizens Academy training in Chicago and any other city; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Illinois Congressional Delegation, the Mayor of the City of Chicago and the Governor of the State of Illinois to take active steps to work with the chief executives of other cities and states to oppose any trainings or actions that threaten the safety of undocumented people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the Illinois Congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Illinois, and President of the United States of America.

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Daniel La Spata

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