



Office of the City Clerk

City Hall
121 N. LaSalle St.
Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
www.chicityclerk.com

Legislation Text

File #: R2021-78, **Version:** 1

To be referred to the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly authorized the creation of port districts in the State of Illinois in 1951, with the Port of Chicago as the first such port to be created, and would eventually become the Illinois International Port District ("IIPD"); and

WHEREAS, the IIPD has historically served as one of the most significant ports in North America, including as the second most significant port in the Great Lakes region; and

WHEREAS, the IIPD is responsible for Foreign Trade Zone No. 22, a federally-mandated trade area spanning 8 counties in Illinois, and lies in or near the 9th and 10th Wards of the City of Chicago, with land, rail, and sea access to destinations foreign and domestic; and

WHEREAS, the IIPD was created by the State of Illinois to be an engine of economic stimulus for the region, garnering an estimated \$1.2 billion in personal income, business revenue, state and federal taxes; and

WHEREAS, in the previous four years, the IIPD reduced its debt by over 61%, while revenue was increased by 22%, despite the decline of business and manufacturing in surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the IIPD has engaged in a Master Plan, which was the first of its kind to be included in the State of Illinois' capital bill; and

WHEREAS, the IIPD has embarked on its first capital project since 1981, the Butler Drive Rehabilitation project, which utilizes an estimated \$11 million in state funding, and over \$3 million in TIF funding from the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the IIPD has been without an Executive Director since October 23, 2020, which was shortly followed by the Executive Assistant; and

WHEREAS, the IIPD is governed by a nine member Board, which includes five members appointed by the Mayor of Chicago with the advice and consent of the Chicago City Council; and

WHEREAS, the IIPD lies within the jurisdiction of the City of Chicago, receives significant funding from the City budget, and has a key impact on the commercial and trade capacity of one of the largest economies in the world; and

WHEREAS, the IIPD has been without an effective administration for several months, and without an accounting of the process for replacement of staff as well as the status of its budget; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the City of Chicago, do hereby call for the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology development to convene a hearing concerning the state of the Illinois International Port District, its operations, funding, and staffing composition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we call upon the members of the IIPD Board to attend this meeting and provide an accounting of the operations and finances of the IIPD in accordance with the principles of good government, financial responsibility, and the residents of the City of Chicago for whom the IIPD provides

economic opportunity in the future.

To be referred to the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development

J-JL

Susan Sadlowski Garza, Alderwoman, 10th Ward Chairwoman, Committee on
Workforce Development

Anthony Beale, Alderman, 9th Ward

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO

Council Chamber » Second Floor - City Hall 121 North LaSalle Street, Chicago IL 60602 City Council Phone: (312) 744 - 6800

SUSAN SADLOWSKI GARZA ALDERWOMAN, 10TH WARD

10500 S. Ewing Ave, Floor 1 Chicago, Illinois 60617 Ward Office Phone: (773) 768-8138 Ward Office Fax: (773) 768-8176

Dear Alderman Villegas,

Honorable Chairman of the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development,

I, along with my colleague Aid. Beale, am writing this letter as a formal request to schedule a hearing, as soon as possible concerning, the state of the Illinois International Port District (IIPD) in the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development.

As you may be aware, the previous Executive Director of the IIPE left on October 23, 2020. Despite the fact that the Port serves as a vital commercial link between the City of Chicago and partners in the Midwest and abroad, the absence of staff has left the city in the dark as to the future plans for this institution. Furthermore, considering the majority of the IIPD's Board is appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Chicago City Council, it is imperative that we receive an up-to-date report on the finances and operation of the IIPD.

Attached you will find a resolution, which will be presented the City Council, calling for a hearing on the state

of the IIPD, as well as calling on the Board to attend and provide an accounting of the situation. We owe it to the residents of Chicago to ensure that this critical engine of economic growth and opportunity, partly funded by their tax dollars, is being run in an open, efficient, and transparent manner.

Sincerely,

Susan Sadlowski Garza, Alderwoman, 10th Ward, Chairwoman of the
Committee on Workforce Development

CITY COUNCIL

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Committee on Finance Committee on Budget and Government Operations Committee on Committees and Rules Committee on Education and Child Development Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy Committee on Ethics and Good Governance Committee on Human Relations and Health Committee on Special Events. Cultural Affairs, and Recreation

Anthony

Beale, Alderman,

9th Ward

The following legislation is being introduced by A Resolution - Calling for a Hearing Concerning the

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1 | Page
woman Susan Sadlowski Garza regarding W10 co-sponsored by

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Alderman Ward 33 2 | Page

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