



Office of the City Clerk

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

Legislation Text

File #: Or2023-83, **Version:** 1

ORDER

WHEREAS, On April 11, 2020, HILCO Redevelopment Partners, owner of the Crawford Power Plant in Little Village, and their general contractors, MCM Management Corporation and Controlled Demolition, failed to protect residents of the neighborhood when they demolished a smokestack and sent a plume of dust into the air, blanketing multiple residential blocks during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigated the City's part in the botched demolition and found numerous deficiencies with the permitting process, including the failure of the Department of Buildings to follow its own regulations for demolitions involving explosives, and the Chicago Department of Public Health's failure to elevate concerns about the potential environmental implications of the implosion; and

WHEREAS, On July 20, 2022, the City Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the Corporation Counsel to immediately release the OIG's report to the public, which has been ignored by both the Corporation Counsel and the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, While the OIG's report was published by several news outlets since the City Council adopted the resolution, the City still has not fully acknowledged its role in the event by officially releasing the report, particularly in the most common language used in La Villita, the Mexico of the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Good government requires not only transparency, but also accountability and a recognition that government must constantly work to reform and improve the systems and processes that protect the health, safety, and welfare of our residents; by failing to officially release the OIG report, the City is not living up to its own values; now, therefore

BE IT ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of the Municipal Code to the contrary, within 30 days after of the effective date of this order, the Corporation Counsel shall: (1) translate the report of the Office of Inspector General regarding the demolition of the Crawford Power Plant (the "OIG Report") into Spanish; (2) officially release both the English and Spanish language versions of the OIG Report to the public, subject to any applicable redactions to protect personal information in accordance with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act; and (3) in consultation with the Office of Inspector General, cause both versions of the OIG Report to be posted in a prominent place on the Office of Inspector General's website.

SECTION 2. This order shall take effect immediately upon passage.

MICHAEL D. RODRIGUEZ Alderman, 22nd Ward