



CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL

★
COUNCIL CHAMBER
CITY HALL ROOM 200
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Lori E. Lightfoot
Office of the Mayor – City Hall
121 N. LaSalle Street, 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

Mayor Lightfoot:

The City of Chicago's vaccine mandate of municipal employees has reached a pivotal juncture. Since the city's mandate of employees, it has imposed and rescinded a separate mandate for vaccinations and masks for patrons of local businesses.

Unfortunately, the city's pursuit of curbing the COVID-19 pandemic is threatening the quality of life in our city. Many police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other city workers are in jeopardy of being disciplined and/or terminated for non-compliance of the city's vaccine mandate as of March 13, 2022. This presents a clear and present danger to the safety, security, and services to the residents we represent.

As members of the City Council, we support following the science and common-sense public safety measures. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention stated that antibodies produced by the human body either by COVID-19 vaccination or infection can guard the body from infection. Serology testing can be performed to detect the presence of COVID-19 antibodies to determine their presence and possible protection from the viruses associated with COVID-19. The fact is that many police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other city workers who are unvaccinated are still protected against this virus.

We have also seen lopsided numbers in how exemption requests are being approved across departments. The City Council deserves to see the metrics and internal controls the city is using to ensure exemption requests, both for third-party medical and conscientious/religious exemptions, are being fairly considered.

It is the solemn responsibility of the city government to protect public health and public safety. Any death is a tragedy, whether it is from COVID-19 or from violence in our streets. We cannot afford to lose one more police officer, firefighter, paramedic, and city worker at this critical time. City administrators must engage the council in a public dialogue to disclose the internal policies that have been developed around the management of this mandate.

We demand the city to issue in writing that no city employee will be disciplined and/or terminated until a comprehensive plan is presented that incorporates the science of natural immunity and an open and fair exemption process to protect the health and beliefs of our workers.

We all want what is best for the city, and time is of the essence. We are prepared to call for a Special City Council meeting if needed to facilitate this open and transparent dialogue if we do not hear from you by close of business day today.

Sincerely,

Ald. Raymond Lopez (15th)
Ald. James Gardiner (45th)
Ald. Matthew O'Shea (19th)
Ald. Derrick Curtis (18th)

Ald. Silvana Tabares (23rd)
Ald. Felix Cardona (31st)
Ald. Edward Burke (14th)
Ald. Samantha Nugent (39th)

Ald. Anthony Napolitano (41st)
Ald. Nicholas Sposato (38th)
Ald. Marty Quinn (13th)
Ald. Anthony Beale (9th)

CC: Allison Arwady, M.D. – Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health
Christopher Owen – Commissioner, Chicago Department of Human Resources