

LICENSE

**ORDINANCE**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Chicago (“City”) is a home rule municipality as described in Article VII, Section 6(a) of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and as such may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, Animals that are slaughtered for their fur endure tremendous suffering; and

**WHEREAS**, Animals raised on fur farms typically spend their entire lives in cramped and filthy cages; and

**WHEREAS**, Fur farmers typically use the cheapest killing methods available, including suffocation, electrocution, gas, and poison; and

**WHEREAS**, Fur farms are reservoirs and transmission vectors for dangerous zoonotic diseases, including SARS coronaviruses, that threaten public health, including in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 infections have been confirmed at fur farms in Europe and the United States, and scientific studies have linked mink, raccoon dogs, and foxes – the animals most commonly farmed for their fur – to a variety of coronaviruses; and

**WHEREAS**, The fur production process is energy intensive and has a significant environmental impact, including air and water pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, Runoff from the fur production process contains high concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen, which are the most common forms of water pollution in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, The tanning and dyeing processes used in fur production use toxic chemicals and heavy metals like chromium and formaldehyde; and

**WHEREAS**, Considering the wide array of alternatives for fashion and apparel, the City Council finds that the demand for fur products does not justify the unnecessary killing and cruel treatment of animals, harm to the environment, and the public health risks to the people of the City caused by these practices; and

**WHEREAS**, The City Council believes that eliminating the sale of fur products in the City will decrease the demand for these cruel and environmentally harmful products and promote community awareness of animal welfare and, in turn, will foster a more humane environment in the City and enhance the reputation of the City; now, therefore,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:**

**SECTION 1.** The foregoing recitals are adopted and incorporated into and made a part of this ordinance.

**SECTION 2.** Title 4 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by creating a new Chapter 4-401, as follows:

**CHAPTER 4-401: TRADE IN FUR PRODUCTS**

#### **4-401-010 Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

“Fur” means any animal skin or part thereof with hair, fleece, or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state.

“Fur product” means any article of clothing or covering for any part of the body, or any fashion accessory, including but not limited to handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs, scarves, shawls, gloves, jewelry, keychains, toys or trinkets, and home accessories and décor, that is made in whole or in part of fur. “Fur product” does not include any of the following:

(a) An animal skin or part thereof that is to be converted into leather, or which in processing will have the hair, fleece, or fur fiber completely removed;

(b) Cowhide with the hair attached thereto;

(c) Deerskin with the hair attached thereto; or

(d) The pelt or skin of any animal that is preserved through taxidermy or for the purpose of taxidermy.

“Non-profit organization” means any corporation that is organized under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) that is created for charitable, religious, philanthropic, educational, or similar purposes.

“Taxidermy” means the practice of preparing and preserving the skin of an animal that is deceased and stuffing and mounting it in lifelike form.

“Ultimate consumer” means an individual who buys a fur product for their own use, or for the use of another, but not for resale or trade.

“Used fur product” means a fur product that has been worn or used by an ultimate consumer.

#### **4-401-015 Prohibitions.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may not sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or otherwise distribute for monetary or nonmonetary consideration a fur product in the City. For purposes of this section, the sale of a fur product shall be deemed to occur in the City if:

(a) The buyer takes physical possession of the fur product in the City; or

(b) The seller is located in the City.

#### **4-401-020 Exemptions.**

The prohibitions in Section 4-401-015 do not apply to the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of:

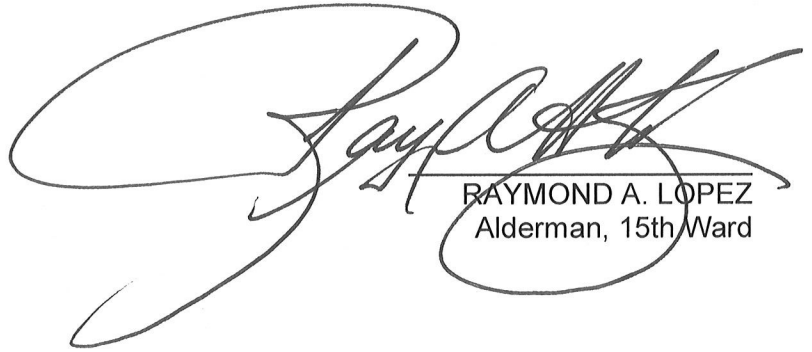
(a) A used fur product by an individual (excluding a retail transaction), non-profit organization, or second-hand store, including a pawn shop;

- (b) A fur product required for use in the practice of a religion;
- (c) A fur product used for traditional tribal, cultural, or spiritual purposes by a member of a federally recognized or state recognized Native American tribe; or
- (d) A fur product where the activity is expressly authorized by federal or State law.

**4-401-025 Penalties.**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall be fined \$500.00 for each offense. Each act of violation and every day upon which any such violation shall occur shall constitute a separate offense.

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall take effect one year after passage.



RAYMOND A. LOPEZ  
Alderman, 15th Ward