

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN EMERGENCY HEARING ON EXTREME FLOODING
EVENTS AND CITY MITIGATION AND RESPONSE**

WHEREAS, On July 2, 2023, the City experienced an extreme weather event that broke all previous daily records for rain in the City – with some areas receiving up to 9 inches of rain – compared to the historic average rainfall in the City *for the entire month* of July, 3.7 inches; and

WHEREAS, As a result of this storm, the Chicago River rose six feet, forcing workers to close a series of locks and reverse the river’s flow from into Lake Michigan to prevent more flooding; and

WHEREAS, Despite these efforts, more than 2,000 complaints for street and basement flooding were received by the City’s 311 system – with roughly 1,500 of those complaints reporting significant basement flooding, sometimes involving upwards of 5 inches of water; and

WHEREAS, Large urban areas like the City naturally produce more heat, which rises into the atmosphere leading to heavier rainfall; when combined with the many impervious surfaces used in urban environments – like concrete and asphalt – preventing water from being absorbed by the ground, the risks for severe flooding are dramatically increased; and

WHEREAS, These increased levels of flooding not only cause immense property damage, but also result in displacement, power outages, sinkholes, house fires, and other hazards, like contamination of the City’s – and the region’s – water supply; and

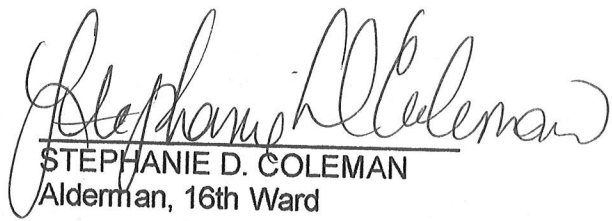
WHEREAS, The impacts of the extreme flooding on July 2nd were most severely felt by the Black and brown residents of the Garfield Park, North Lawndale, West Humboldt Park, and Austin communities; and

WHEREAS, With projections calling for more and more frequent, and more and more powerful, storms as climate change continues, the City must find new ways to mitigate and respond to flooding; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby call upon a joint committee consisting of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy and the Committee on Public Safety to convene an emergency hearing, as soon as practicable, on the recent extreme flooding events in the City and to discuss the City’s plans to mitigate and respond to future flooding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such hearing should include testimony from all relevant City and regional agencies, including the Chicago Department of Transportation, the Chicago Department of Water Management, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the Office of Emergency Management and Communication, and the Mayor’s Chief Sustainability Officer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we call on the administration to provide outreach to all Chicagoans to get an accurate count of the people impacted by these flooding events, and to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Governor JB Pritzker to declare a disaster area to provide resources to those most affected by this disaster.


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Alderman, 4th Ward

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Alderman, 6th Ward

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Alderman, 49th Ward