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Fire



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON  
MAYOR

June 21, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the request of the Fire Commissioner, I transmit herewith an ordinance authorizing the execution of a renewal agreement for continued participation in the Mutual Aide Box Alarm System.

Your favorable consideration of this ordinance will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "BJ Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

## ORDINANCE

**WHEREAS**, the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) was organized beginning in 1968 in the northwest and western suburbs of Chicago, Illinois to coordinate and automate fire department mutual aid, based roughly on the Chicago Fire Department's box alarm system of predetermined resources assigned to respond to a specific incident or area. Since 1968, MABAS has grown into a multi-state organization to coordinate responses to fires, emergency medical calls, hazardous material, technical rescue and other emergencies and disasters through prearranged mutual aid and dispatch agreements. The system is designed to facilitate all levels of mutual aid from day-to-day automatic aid responses to major incidents and disasters requiring significant deployment of resources. MABAS member units include a variety of departments, from all-volunteer fire departments to major cities like Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, since the last revision of the master MABAS intergovernmental agreement in about 1988, MABAS has grown exponentially to its current composition of almost 1200 Illinois units and 2200 total units in Illinois and several adjoining states; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the express intent of member units that the MABAS Agreement be in a form which can be adopted by units in different states where units may lawfully enter into agreements providing for their mutual aid and protection. Thus, even if the MABAS Agreement does not specifically cite the applicable current legal authority for a particular state and its member units, the lack of such citation shall not be construed in any manner as an impediment to or prohibition of units from other states from joining MABAS. It is also the express intent of the member units that all units adopt this same intergovernmental agreement without modification; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, 1970, Article VII, Section 10, authorizes units of local government to contract or otherwise associate among themselves, with the State, with other states and their units of local government, and with the United States to obtain and share services and to exercise, combine, or transfer any power or function in any manner not prohibited by law; and to further contract or otherwise associate with individuals, associations, and corporations in any manner not prohibited by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/1 *et seq.*, provides that any power or powers, privileges or authority exercised or which may be exercised by a unit of local government may be exercised and enjoyed jointly with any other unit of local government including units of local government from another state; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 5 of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/5, provides that any one or more public agencies may contract with any one or more public agencies to perform any governmental service, activity or undertaking which any of the public agencies entering into the contract is authorized by law to perform, provided that such contract shall be authorized by the governing body of each party to the contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Chicago have determined that it is in the best interests of this unit of local government and its residents to enter into a Mutual

Aid Box Alarm System Agreement to secure to each the benefits of mutual aid in fire protection, firefighting, rescue, emergency medical services and other activities for the protection of life and property from an emergency or disaster and to provide for communications procedures, training and other necessary functions to further the provision of said protection of life and property from an emergency or disaster; **now, therefore,**

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

**SECTION 1. *Incorporation Of Recitals.*** That the recitals set forth above are incorporated here by reference.

**SECTION 2. *Approval Of Agreement.*** That the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Master Agreement, approved by the MABAS Executive Board on October 19, 2022, is hereby approved, and the Commissioner of Fire is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Master Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof.

**SECTION 3. *Repealer.*** All prior ordinances, resolutions or motions, or parts of ordinances, resolutions, or motions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be, and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

**SECTION 4. *Severability.*** This Ordinance and every provision thereof shall be considered severable. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Ordinance is declared by a court of law to be invalid or unconstitutional, the invalidity or unconstitutionality thereof shall not affect the validity of any other provisions of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 5. *Effective Date.*** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.