

HHR

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago officials have a responsibility to the residents of Chicago to provide measures to increase the quality of life and ensure public health and safety;

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago officials recognize that increasing poverty rates and economic instability that affect residents need to be addressed substantially to reduce the cost of living;

WHEREAS, to address issues relating to rampant increases in poverty, and a desire to decrease the cost of living, City officials will create a Task Force to educate and inform the City's departments and conceptualize solutions;

WHEREAS, the creation of a Task Force that directly researches, addresses, and informs the City Department about poverty rates and economic statuses in order to reduce rates and increase the quality of life for residents affected is necessary for the eventual dissolution of poverty in the City of Chicago to increase public health and safety.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2-4 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by inserting a new Section 2-4-125 as follows:

2-4-125 Task Force on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security.

(a) The Mayor shall create a Task Force on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security. The task force shall investigate and formulate strategies to:

(1) improve the City's departments understanding of the root causes of poverty and economic insecurity, including contributing social, economic, and cultural factors and the reasons that poverty and economic insecurity persist in this City; and

(2) expand the City's departments understanding of poverty by distinguishing a standard that measures a level of freedom from deprivation from a standard that measures economic security provided by a living wage and access to a livable standard of living; and

(3) educate City departments on the impact poverty has on other measures of economic stability and economic outcomes, including educational attainment, rates of incarceration, lifetime earnings, access to health care, health care outcomes, and access to housing; and

(4) collaborate with relevant departments to create policy that strives to alleviate the plight of poverty that is permeating throughout City; and

(5) reduce and ultimately eliminate poverty in the City by making recommendations to other legislative, executive, and judicial branches of this State.

(b) The task force shall be made up of a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 17, three

of which shall be current members of City Council. The Mayor shall appoint the membership and shall prioritize representatives from community-based organizations that focus on poverty elimination and economic security.

(c) The Mayor shall designate the Chair and Vice-chair of the task force. Members shall not be compensated by the City for their service on the task force. Appointees shall be appointed and hold office for two years. Vacancies on the task force shall be filled within 90 days.

(d) Meetings may be called by the Chair of the task force or by a majority of the members of the task force. A majority of members of the task force shall constitute a quorum.

(e) When appropriate, the task force may invite others, such as representatives of other governmental units and subject matter experts, to assist the task force in carrying out the duties of subsection (a).

(f) The task force shall submit written recommendations based on their findings one year after formation of the task force and every year thereafter. The study should include its findings and policy recommendations to relevant City departments. A copy of the written recommendations shall be given to the Mayor, and members of City Council.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lamont J. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

LAMONT J. ROBINSON
Alderman, 4th Ward