

Committees on Immigrant and Refugee Rights & Public Safety

RESOLUTION Calling for the City to Provide its Expenditure Forecast and Security Plan for the August 2024 Democratic National Convention

WHEREAS, Chicago has been selected as the location of the 2024 Democratic National Convention (DNC) from August 19 - 22, 2024 during which delegates of the United States Democratic Party will select the Democratic nominees for president and vice president in the upcoming presidential election; and,

WHEREAS, in preparation for these events, many stakeholders are coordinating with the City of Chicago and other Sister Agencies, to implement an event plan that the public should understand; and,

WHEREAS, the last time Chicago hosted the DNC in 1968 an estimated 10,000 demonstrators vocalized and staged events to inspire resistance against the mainstream Democratic Party's ambivalence in the United States' War in Vietnam; and,

WHEREAS, Chicago prepared for that DNC by supplementing Chicago police officers with around 5,000 state National Guardsmen and 6,500 federal troops; and by the the time the 1968 DNC had ended, and estimated 668 protesters had been arrested, and hundreds of people injured in what is now infamously seen as some of the harshest police-crowd interactions in Chicago and around the country; and,

WHEREAS, the coerced migration of asylum-seekers to Chicago from Texas and other states where Republican leaders want to create humanitarian crises doesn't seem to have an end in sight and will only continue to escalate as the DNC looms closer; and,

WHEREAS, since this phenomenon over 13,500 asylum-seekers have arrived in Chicago, with currently around 2,000 sleeping on the floor of police stations and airport terminals and another 7,000 in shelters; and,

WHEREAS, Chicago, not having proper welcoming or transitional infrastructure to support the influx of new arrivals, has continued its reliance on the rapid relief by Mutual Aid Networks comprised of volunteer neighbors to provide meals, clothing, blankets, and other resources for months, with minimum support by the State and Federal levels of governments who are will be making their way to Chicago for the DNC; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to know what investments from which funds are being made to infrastructure and security are being made to facilitate the DNC; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled here on this 14th day of September, 2023, do hereby call for all departments involved to present a plan informing the public on all intended expenditures related undertaken by the City ahead of the DNC, including a detailed security plan; and,

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be prepared and presented to the Chairs of the Committees on Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Public Safety on immediate adoption.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Vasquez, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andre Vasquez, Jr.
Alderman, 40th Ward