

City Council Meeting
September 13, 2023

Social Media Safety Day Resolution

WHEREAS, social media can be a force for the greater public good, providing a means for beneficial entertainment, education, socialization, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a warning on May 23, 2023, stating that “there are increasing concerns among researchers, parents and caregivers, young people, healthcare experts, and others about the impact of social media on youth mental health” with such concerns including anxiety, eating disorders, depression, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, social media is additionally used to facilitate cyberbullying, privacy invasion, fraud, human and trafficking, sexual harassment, sexual predation, hate, and misinformation; and

WHEREAS, certain segments of society such as domestic violence survivors are also at increased risk of social media-related harms; and

WHEREAS, social media has also demonstrably caused significant and widespread harm to the public, especially Chicago’s youth; and

WHEREAS, a University of Chicago Crime Law Report noted that teachers and school administrators report that a large share of in-school conflicts originate in social media disputes; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that gang members are using social platforms to sell drugs, threaten and harass individuals, post violent videos; and

WHEREAS, studies have further found that gangs utilize social media as a way to maintain threatening virtual presences, to communicate about and organize their activities, and to intimidate others.

WHEREAS, a comprehensive approach on social media that promotes best practices across education, public policy, and technology increases our ability to protect families from these threats; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago should continue in its efforts to mitigate and prevent current and emerging social media-related threats, provide guidance to those at risk, and bring awareness to the benefits and challenges of social media; and

WHEREAS, establishing a Social Media Safety Day will serve to promote efforts and awareness for the protection of our families and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Chicago by the adoption of this Resolution hereby designate October 3, 2023, as Social Media Safety Day in the City of Chicago.



Walter Burnett Jr.
Alderman, 27th Ward