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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
ECONOMIC, CAPITAL, AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEES AND RULES
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
ZONING, LANDMARKS, AND BUILDING STANDARDS
BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT AND EQUALITY
LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
AVIATION
FINANCE

MONTHLY REPORT – March 2021

Pursuant to Rule 45 of the City Council Rules of Order, the **Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development** submits the following **Monthly Report for March 2021**:

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON March 11, 2021

In compliance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders 2020-7, 2020-10, and 2020-18, attendance at this meeting was held by remote means only.

Chairman Villegas called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M.

Roll Call

The following members of the Committee were present as determined during roll call: Aldermen Villegas, Lopez, Curtis, Scott, Burnett, Reboyras, Mitts, Sposato, Vasquez, Tunney, and Hadden. With 11 members present, quorum was established.

Aldermen Cardona, Martin, Rodriguez Sanchez, and Rodriguez asked to be recorded as in attendance.

Public Comment

Nobody signed up for public comment

Item 1

There was one item on the agenda:

R2021-213 Call for hearing(s) on implementation of guaranteed income initiative and cash-based programs and policies to help working people and families become more resilient to financial emergencies;

- Chairman Villegas asked for a motion to recommend passage of the item and commence the hearings.
- Alderman Mitts and Lopez motioned to recommend passage by the same roll call as was used to determine quorum. The motion passed without any objection.
- Chairman Villegas spoke of the passage of the American Rescue Plan and how it laid the groundwork to help the neediest. He also gave a personal account of why this subject was important to him.
- Alderwoman Hadden, co-sponsor, spoke on the cost of living in Chicago and how its rise has outpaced the rise in wages. She also spoke on how a pilot for guaranteed basic income can be an opportunity to meet the needs of the residents and make Chicago stronger.
- Alderwoman King, co-sponsor, spoke on how guaranteed basic income is not a new concept and recalled the Poor Peoples Campaign that was championed by Dr. Martin Luther King.
- Alderman Reilly asked to be recorded as present for the roll call.

- **Alderman Harris asked to be recorded as present for the quorum call.**
- **Michael Tubbs**, former Mayor of Stockton, CA, spoke about the guaranteed income pilot implemented in Stockton. He spoke of the arguments against having a guaranteed income of \$500 for 125 families and the history of guaranteed income in the United States. He also noted the following outcomes of the pilot program:
 - People on the pilot worked more; exiting from part-time employment to full-time employment twice as much as people who were not part of the pilot.
 - People participating in the project also decreased use of unemployment insurance, also by a factor of two.
 - Participation in the pilot also had physiological advantages. After one year, stress levels decreased; cortisol levels decreased; depression levels decreased. All these levels reached normal values when income volatility (or, economic security) was decreased.
 - COVID-related data is still outstanding.
- Mr. Tubbs noted that 44 cities throughout the US were implementing or had already implemented some form of guaranteed income.
- **Muneer Karcher-Ramos**, Director of the Office of Financial Empowerment of the City of St. Paul, MN, gave a personal account of why a pilot programs such as these are important to working families.
- Mr. Karcher-Ramos then proceeded to detail how St. Paul planned and implemented its pilot program, the Peoples Prosperity Guaranteed Income Pilot Program, using CARES Act money. He included the methodology used to choose participants and data on the participants.
- Chairman Villegas introduced Los Angeles Council Member Curren Price.
- Mr. Price detailed how Los Angeles leveraged \$88 million to help residents of the City, including using \$6 million for a guaranteed basic income. The Los Angeles City Council had recently approved the pilot and the City had begun planning how to implement the program.
- Alderwoman Hadden introduced Hannah Kahn, policy analyst for the Mayor's Office of the City of Providence, RI.
- Ms. Kahn spoke about the design process Providence used to establish its pilot program which would be implemented Spring of 2021. She noted that the City decided to work with a large group of community partners to make the pilot as inclusive as possible.
- Alderwoman Hadden Introduced Dr. Damon Jones, Associate Professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy.
- Dr. Jones spoke in support of the resolution. He mentioned outcomes of studies that indicated that having liquid assets helped people weather financial hardships and that cash payments did not lead recipients to work less, on the contrary, the recipients worked more and contributed more to the local economy.
- Alderwoman Hadden introduced the last witness, Cheryse Singleton-Noble, a recipient of cash transfer via LIFT-Chicago.
- Ms. Singleton-Noble spoke in support of the resolution, speaking on how she, as a recipient of cash payments, has been able to start her own business and allowed her to support her family.
- Chairman Villegas opened the floor to questions and comments.
- Alderman Curtis spoke in support of the resolution and asked to be added as a co-sponsor.
- Alderman Lopez asked to be associated as a co-sponsor of the resolution. He asked how much money would be required for such a pilot program.
- Chairman Villegas responded that based on the amount of money the City of Chicago was receiving via the American Rescue Act, it was up to the City Council members to decide what that number would look like.
- Alderman Lopez noted that there are many non-government agencies that have partnered with the City and are receiving money from the City, but are not meeting the metrics that were agreed upon.
- Alderman Rodriguez thanked the sponsors of the resolution and the witnesses present and spoke in support of the resolution. He asked how immigrants, returning and undocumented citizens could be engaged in programs such as these.
- Harish Patel, Director Economic Security for Illinois, answered that there is a precedence in both the state and the City using government monies for cash payments.
- Kasey Wiedrich, Financial Capability Manager for the Office of Financial Empowerment in St. Paul responded that St. Paul did not include resident status on their applications nor did they

require recipients to fill out a W9 as the money being disbursed was not taxable. She also stated that St. Paul have materials available in the most common languages spoken in St. Paul.

- *Alderman Vasquez expressed concern about a communication program*
- *Ms. Wiedrich noted that St. Paul started with mail, as recipients were based on an already existing program in the City, flyers were distributed to the target audience, and lastly public records searches were used to obtain phone numbers. The local press was also used. She added that one thing to consider was working with local agencies who already developed relationships with residents.*
- *Alderman Vasquez asked if there was latitude to work with the Administration to set aside money for a pilot program.*
- *Chairman Villegas responded that the American Rescue Plan's language would be even less restricting than that of the CARES Act and that as legislators, it was up to the City Council to apportion the money for such a pilot program.*
- *Mr. Patel responded that that there was legal precedent set and that the Economic Security for Illinois would supply a legal memo regarding the American Rescue Act.*
- *Alderman Vasquez asked if any of the witnesses had considered baby bonds.*
- *Ms. Weidrich responded that St. Paul used its college savings accounts as a platform for their pilot program.*

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Villegas asked for a motion to adjourn.

Alderman Cardenas so moved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 A.M.

The members of the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development in attendance included: Aldermen Villegas (36), Harris (8), Cardenas (12), Lopez (15), Curtis (18), Scott (24), Burnett (27), Reboyras (30), Mitts (37), Sposato (38), Vasquez (40), Reilly (42), Tunney (44), and Hadden (49)

Non-members of the Committee in attendance included: Alderman King (4), Rodriguez (22), Cardona (31), Rodriguez Sanchez (33), Martin (47)

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 16, 2021

Incompliance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders 2020-7, 2020-10, and 2020-18, attendance at this meeting was held by remote means only.

Chairman Villegas called the meeting to order at 2:07

Roll Call

The following members of the Committee were present as determined during roll call: Alderman Villegas, Mitchell, Sawyer, Harris, Cardenas, Lopez, Curtis, O'Shea, Tabares, Scott, Burnett, Reboyras, Mitts, Sposato, Vasquez, Reilly, Tunney, and Hadden. With 18 members present, a quorum was established.

Alderman Cardona asked to be recorded in attendance.

Approval of the February Monthly Report

There were no comments or correction to the February Monthly Report. Alderman Mitts moved to accept the report. The motion carried without objection.

Public Comment

Nobody signed up for public comment.

Items 1-4

- A2020-24** Reappointment of Michael A. Moreno, Jr. as member of Special Service Area No. 25, Little Village Commission
- A2020-25** Appointment of Joe Olivieri as member of Special Service Area No. 28-2014, Six Corners Commission
- A2020-26** Appointment of Iuliia Skuibida as member of Special Service Area No. 29-2014, West Town Commission.
- A2020-27** Appointment of Evan Muellner as member of Special Service Area No. 29-2014, West Town Commission

- *Chairman Villegas noted that Special Service Area ("SSA") No. 25 was located in the 12th, 22nd, and 24th Wards.*
- *Chairman Villegas asked if any of the Special Service Area ("SSA") appointees would like to speak.*
- *Michael Moreno, Chairman of SSA No. 25, spoke briefly on his experience as an SSA member and owner of two local businesses.*
- *Iuliia Skuibida spoke briefly of her experience as a business owner and her involvement in the local Chamber of Commerce in the West Town Area.*
- *Evan Muellner thanked the committee and briefly introduced himself and his business.*
- *Alderman Lopez asked if all of the appointees had the support of the local alderman.*
- *Mark Roschen, with the Department of Planning and Development, responded that all the aldermen had been notified twice and supported or had no objections to the nominations.*
- *Chairman Villegas noted that the appointees are invited to the meetings in order to try to establish a working relationship between the Committee and SSA members.*
- *Chairman Villegas asked for a motion recommend approval of the appointments by the same roll call that was used to determined quorum.*
- *Alderman Lopez so moved.*

Item 5

- O2021-752 Support of Class 6(b) tax incentive for property at 1100 W 37th St

- *Emmett Morrissey, Financial Planning Analyst in the Department of Planning and Development, presented the project to the Committee.*
- *Chairman Villegas opened the floor to questions.*
- *Alderman Lopez spoke in favor of the project because John Edel was associated with the project.*
- *John Edel gave details about the history of the property and the potential tenants, many of which are local residents and minority-owned businesses.*
- *Alderman Curtis spoke in support of the project because of similar work John Edel had performed in another rehabilitated property.*
- *Chairman Villegas asked for a motion to recommend passage of the item.*
- *Alderman Curtis motioned do pass on the ordinance.*

- *There being no objection, the motion passed.*

Item 6

O2021-754 Support of Class 6(b) tax incentive for property at 4616-4624 W Superior St

- *Emmett Morrissey presented the project before the Committee.*
- *Chairman Villegas opened the floor to questioning.*
- *There were no questions.*
- *Chairman Villegas asked if the applicant wished to make a comment.*
- *DeAnne Shallcross gave a brief summary of the 99 years her family's business had been in Chicago and thanked the committee for their considerations.*
- *Alderman Mitts thanked Ms. Shallcross for keeping her business in Chicago.*
- *There being no further questions, Chairman Villegas asked for a motion to recommend passage of the item.*
- *Alderman Mitts so moved.*
- *The motion carried without objections.*
- *Chairman Villegas congratulated Ms. Shallcross and thanked her for continuing to invest in Chicago.*

Chairman Villegas recognized Alderman Thompson, who was not present during Item 5.

- *Alderman Thompson spoke in support of the project and the importance of revitalizing older buildings*

Item 7

O2021-332 Amendment to Municipal Code Section 4-6-270 to modify requirements for application or renewal of regulated business licenses for home occupations

- *Chairman Villegas noted that item 7 was not ready to be voted on and tabled the item until the following meeting of the committee.*

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Villegas asked for a motion to adjourn.

Alderman Scott so moved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 P.M.

The members of the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development in attendance included: Alderman Villegas (36), Mitchell (7), Sawyer (6), Harris (8), Cardenas (12), Lopez (15), Curtis (18), O'Shea (19), Tabares (23), Scott (24), Burnett (27), Reboyras (30), Mitts (37), Sposato (38), Vasquez (40), Reilly (42), Tunney (44), and Hadden (49).

Non-members of the Committee in attendance included: Alderman Thompson (11) and Cardona (31)

Respectfully Submitted by:

Carlos Diaz

For the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development