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**MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES ORDINANCE TO CRACK DOWN ON BUSINESSES  
POSING A THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY IN CHICAGO'S NEIGHBORHOODS**

*Additional Tool Aimed to Improve Quality of Life in Communities Throughout Chicago; Will  
Allow City To Immediately Shut Down Establishments That Pose a Threat*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Alderman Brendan Reilly today introduced an ordinance to City Council that would allow the City to immediately close and keep closed establishments that present a public safety threat to patrons and neighborhood residents.

"As part of our continued efforts to improve neighborhood quality of life and ensure public safety, this will allow the City to immediately close businesses causing a public safety threat and prohibit them from re-opening unless and until the community's public safety is assured," said Mayor Emanuel. "We have heard from residents in our neighborhoods who want irresponsible business owners held accountable when they put public safety at risk, and this additional enforcement tool will help us accomplish that."

- The ordinance would authorize the Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent to immediately close an establishment for up to six months. The business owner will have the option of staying closed or initiating a hearing to re-open through the license disciplinary process.
- At that hearing, in order to re-open, a business owner must provide a plan of action that will ensure public safety and receive approval from the City for the plan. The business will remain closed until such a plan is approved.
- Meanwhile, the City can pursue total revocation of an owner's license, suspension of a license, or other penalties and fines.

"I am pleased to cosponsor this ordinance with Mayor Emanuel, to crack-down on the worst liquor establishments in the city," said Alderman Reilly. "For too long, bureaucracy, loopholes and an extensive appeals process has enabled the worst liquor establishments in the city to remain open, even after the most egregious acts like shootings, stabbings and

drug dealing. This ordinance will give law enforcement more tools to shut down these bad actors and restore peace for neighbors."

"Neighbors shouldn't have to sacrifice their quality-of-life while these nightclubs game the system and take advantage of legal loopholes to stay open and wreak further havoc on their community. This ordinance will help us address a number of problem establishments downtown and I'm eager to get it passed as soon as possible."

Currently, when a violent offense takes place at a business in the City of Chicago, the city temporarily closes the establishment while the investigation is underway. However, once the investigation concludes, the business is able to reopen pending a license disciplinary hearing, which can take up to six months. The ordinance will provide the city with the ability to immediately close an establishment that negatively affects safety of residents and visitors across Chicago's neighborhoods, and keep that business closed until the discipline process is completed and public safety is assured.

Establishments that qualify for immediate closure are identified as "public nuisance" establishments where a threat to public safety exists, warranting immediate closure by the CPD. These offenses are deemed a public safety threat whether they are committed at the property or by a patron, the business owner/licensee, his agent or employee under circumstances linked to the business. The threshold to meet public nuisance includes the following activities:

- illegal discharge of a firearm
- aggravated assault or battery
- criminal sexual assault, or
- any conduct from the business owner or licensee or patron of the business that causes another person to suffer unconsciousness, severe bruising or bleeding, or disability or disfigurement.

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