



June 17, 2021

The Honorable Emma Mitts
37th Ward Alderman
Chair of the Committee on License and Consumer Protection
121 N. LaSalle St., Room 300
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Mitts,

As local chambers and business service organizations, we work closely with and represent small businesses in neighborhoods throughout the city. In this role, we have seen firsthand the incredible devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our neighborhood small businesses have faced challenge after challenge over the past fifteen months and many were forced to close their doors permanently.

Now that we are finally in Phase 5, our small business community stands at a crossroads. After fifteen months of pain and uncertainty we cannot simply return to business as normal – if we do, we may lose even more of the small businesses that play such a pivotal role in our communities.

Therefore, on behalf of the small businesses we represent, we are calling on the City of Chicago Committee on License and Consumer Protection to pass the Chi Biz Strong Initiative. This is the bold plan we need to cut red tape, provide financial assistance and fundamentally reimagine the way business is done in Chicago.

By extending the third-party delivery fee cap, speeding up the sign permit process, legalizing sidewalk signs and creating an expedited restaurant licensing program, among many other initiatives, Chi Biz Strong will deliver the type of fundamental reform that our small businesses desperately need to recover fully from the pandemic. We support this legislative package and ask for City Council to pass the much-needed Chi Biz Strong Initiative

Sincerely,

51st St. Business Association
95th St. Business Association
36Squared
Austin African American Business Networking Association
Andersonville Chamber of Commerce
Austin Chamber of Commerce

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Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council
Beverly Area Planning Association
Belmont Central Chamber of Commerce
West Side Forward
Chicago Urban League
Edgebrook Sauganash Chamber of Commerce
Edison Park Chamber of Commerce
Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce
Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce
Greater Southwest Community Development Corporation
Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce
Little Village Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Bend Chamber of Commerce
Morgan Park Beverly Hills Association
North Branch Works
Northwest Side Community Development Corporation
Polish American Association
Pulaski Elston Business Association
Six Corners Association
Small Business Majority
South Shore Chamber of Commerce
Uptown Chamber of Commerce – Uptown United
West Central Association
Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce
West Ridge Chamber of Commerce

CC: Rosa Escareno, BACP Commissioner