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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR EMANUEL'S 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*

The City Council today approved an ordinance allowing 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 authorizes the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) 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 the establishment.
- At that hearing, in order to re-open, the business owner/licensee must either establish that a public safety offense did not occur at the establishment or provide a plan of action, approved by the city, that will ensure public safety. 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 have cosponsored this ordinance with Mayor Emanuel, to crack-down on the worst establishments in the city," said Alderman Reilly. "For too long, legal loopholes and an extensive appeals process have enabled the worst establishments in the city to remain open, even after the most egregious acts like killings, shootings, stabbings, or aggravated criminal assaults or batteries have occurred there. 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 the owners of these irresponsibly managed businesses game the system and take advantage of legal loopholes to stay open and wreak further havoc on the community," said Alderman Reilly. "This ordinance will help us address a number of problem establishments and I applaud its passage."

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 the outcome of a license disciplinary hearing, which can take up to six months to complete. This ordinance provides the city with the ability to immediately close an establishment that threatens the public safety of residents and visitors across Chicago's neighborhoods, and to keep that business closed for up to six months until the public safety is assured, as evidenced by the submission of an approved nuisance abatement plan reasonably calculated to prevent the occurrence of another violent offense at the establishment.

"The safety of my constituents is a top concern, and I have zero tolerance for establishments that allow or attract dangerous criminal activity," said Alderman Pat Dowell. "This ordinance will serve as an effective tool to immediately shut down businesses that are the site of violent and aggressive crime."

Establishments that qualify for immediate closures are establishments where a violent offense has occurred, and that Chicago Police Department has determined pose a threat to public safety. These violent offenses are deemed to be a public safety threat when they occur at an establishment during its operating hours, and are committed by the business owner/licensee, or by an agent, employee or patron of the establishment, under circumstances linked to the business, and where the Police Superintendent reasonably determines, based on information in his possession, that continued operation of the establishment presents a danger to the public. The threshold to meet the public nuisance standard includes the following violent offenses:

- Killing of a human being by another
- illegal discharge of a firearm
- aggravated assault or battery
- criminal sexual assault, or
- any conduct that causes another person to suffer unconsciousness, severe bruising or bleeding, or disability or disfigurement.

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