

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY OF CHICAGO

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MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES MEASURE TO PROHIBIT PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL REGISTRY PROGRAMS

Ordinance would ensure that the City of Chicago Never Participates in Any Federal Registry Program Established by the Trump Administration

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today introduced to City Council a measure that would prohibit any participation in a federal registry program based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, criminal record and other identifying factors.

"It is unacceptable that so many Chicagoans are afraid of their federal government. Participating in a national registry based on race, religion, or any other factor would add to this fear and does not align with the morals and values of this city," said Mayor Emanuel. "In Chicago, we find great strength in our diversity. No matter your religion, national origin, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, disability, gender or age, Chicago will always be a place that welcomes people from all walks of life."

The Trump administration, through travel bans and hateful rhetoric, continues to promote unsubstantiated ideas that residents from certain countries – based on religion and country of origin – pose a certain national security threat. This ordinance will ensure that city money, facilities, property, equipment and personnel will in no way provide support in any manner for any proposed Registry Program.

"The idea that registries will contribute to the health and safety of our city is a complete fallacy," said Mona Noriega, Chairman and Commissioner of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. "The City of Chicago will not be party to exposing our residents to the possibility of such a discriminatory program."

The ordinance would prohibit the disclosure of Personal Demographic Information regarding any individual that is requested for the creation of a Registry Program. The City of Chicago will not participate in the disclosure of individuals' race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, criminal record and other identifying factors which would be used to track or identify specific individuals. The Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago has been providing its legislative expertise to all communities facing possible civil rights violations in order to protect constitutional rights and were instrumental in helping the City of Chicago develop the ordinance.

"Chicago is a city of diverse residents with a history of multiculturalism. We embrace and respect all religions that add to its strong identity," said Maaria Mozaffar, Legislative Attorney at CAIR Chicago. "This Ordinance sends a strong message around the country that Chicago will not allow fear to dictate our policies or adopt unconstitutional measures that divide us."

"This is a next, right step towards a city that is safe for refugees, Muslims, and Arab Americans. We will continue organizing towards policies that concretely improve Chicago's ability to protect and defend immigrant, Black, Latino, and all Chicago residents targeted by the Trump administration," said Hatem Abudayyeh, Executive Director of the Arab American Action Network.

If passed by City Council, the ordinance would protect residents of Chicago from registering in any Registry Program, whether public, private or a joint public-private initiative."

CAIR is a nonprofit organization that works to attain equal opportunity for, and normalize the image of, Muslims in America.

Last year, Mayor Emanuel joined mayors and county executive from a number of cities to urge White House officials to end the failed, discriminatory National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS) program, which created a "special registration" for immigrants from 25 primarily Muslim-majority countries. The Obama Administration ended NSEERS in December of 2016.

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