

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is a home rule unit of government pursuant to the 1970 Illinois Constitution, Article VII, Section 6 (a); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule power, the City of Chicago may exercise any power and perform any function relating to its government and affairs including protecting the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, since the World's Fair in 1893, Chicago, the Capitol of the Midwest, has played a significant role in commerce, architecture, transportation and many other essentials for big city survival; and

WHEREAS, every year, many people from all over the world make Chicago a premier business and tourist destination, drawing more than 30 million visitors from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Chicago has attracted a cross-section of people that visit local venues such as Lincoln Park Zoo, Sears Tower, Navy Pier, Museum of Science and Industry, the Art Institute of Chicago, Millennium Park as well as attend our annual events such as the Taste of Chicago and the Chicago Air & Water Show; and

WHEREAS, with its diverse economy, Chicago is also a locale where business leaders from around the world assemble and attend large-scale conferences; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago remains one of the convention capitols of the world and the nation's busiest meeting place; and

WHEREAS, the tourism industry in the City has played a vital role in our local economy generating \$8.7 billion a year in revenue for the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, an essential component to Chicago's tourism industry are the many hotels which provide guests with nearly 30,000 rooms to choose from during their stay; and

WHEREAS, in order for visitors to continue to enjoy their visit to our great City, the hotel industry must provide guests with exceptional quality service; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the City of Chicago hold the tourism industry to a high standard as it continues to provide the City with a valuable source of revenue; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the City of Chicago treat every single visitor with the utmost respect and provide them with essentials necessary for them to enjoy their stay; and

WHEREAS, visitors have the right to know about circumstances affecting their quality of stay in Chicago hotels prior to booking; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are expressly incorporated herein and made part hereof as though fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. Chapter 4-208 of the Municipal Code is hereby amended by creating a new section underscored as follows:

4-208-077 Notification of Work Stoppage to Hotel Guests

A “struck hotel” is any hotel in the City that is subject to a work stoppage of more than 15 days duration by twenty or more employees whose principal place of work is at the hotel.

A struck hotel shall notify potential guests of the work stoppage prior to booking.

The notification must include clearly visible, written notice on the hotel’s website, as well as notice given orally to those reserving rooms by telephone regardless of the location of the telephone operators. All printed and electronic materials published by the struck hotel advertising or informing the public at large or potential customers of the existence of the hotel or the services it offers shall also include the notice. The notice shall be provided in all languages used by the hotel in its reservation process. The hotel shall also notify all third-party internet reservation sites, reservation networks, travel agents, conference planners and tradeshow with which it conducts business and may not list with any internet reservation sites, reservation networks or travel agents that do not publish the notice to potential customers who access their services. Furthermore, any such hotel must notify all guests who had booked prior to the work stoppage but whose stay has not been completed as of the 15th day of the work stoppage.

Notification by a struck hotel to potential guests shall include an accurate and truthful description of the work stoppage, including whether the work stoppage is a strike or a lockout, when the work stoppage began, which departments or job classifications are affected by the work stoppage and whether picketing at the hotel has occurred.

Any person who books meeting or residential accommodations or food or beverage services at a struck hotel who is not notified of the work stoppage before booking may bring an action against the struck hotel in the any court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this section and shall be entitled to all remedies available under the law or in equity appropriate to remedy any violation of this article, including but not limited to rescission, restitution of any amounts paid to the hotel and consequential damages. The court shall award reasonable attorney's fees and costs to a plaintiff who prevails in any enforcement action.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect 15 days after passage and publication.

William A. Gules 26th
Quinn Miller 37
412

Sandi Jackson 7th
 Ricardo Muñoz

22ND Ward Alderman

45
Sheldress St. Jyl 6th

Pat Lowell 3rd

Walter Jones

5
 Ed H S H 28th

Ful Alms 13

33
 Rudy Mar

John Thompson 16th

Helen Skeller 46

413rd
 Jay A Carl 12th

Edward M. Bunker 14th

41st
 Joseph A. Moore

30

10th
 J. A. Pige

35th
 J. A. Pige

23
 S. W. Jones

23
 S. W. Jones

25th
 Mary Ann Jones

39
 Margaret Jones

15th
 Betty All-Bear

25th
 John A. Jones

24th
 John A. Jones

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
MAY 13 2009
<i>Miguel del Valle</i> City Clerk City of Chicago

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OCT - 7 2009
<i>Miguel del Valle</i> City Clerk City of Chicago