

CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK
MIGUEL DEL VALLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Clerk del Valle Warns Summer Travelers – New Passport Law Goes Into Effect June 1

New Law Requires All Entering U.S. from Mexico or Canada to Have Passport

Federal officials anticipate confusion this summer as travelers coming home from Canada or Mexico are now required to show a passport or passport card. To avoid travel disruptions, City Clerk Miguel del Valle is reminding residents to apply early for a passport or passport card for their summer travel plans.

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, 76 percent of U.S. citizens do not have passports. City Clerk del Valle's expects an increase in passport applications as the summer traveling season nears, which could result in federal processing delays. **Beginning June 1, all U.S. citizens entering the country by land or sea must present a passport or government border-crossing passport card that shows their name and proof of citizenship.** Both applications are available at the City Clerk's offices.

"Residents planning to travel internationally and use land border crossings need to apply for their passport now in order to avoid long delays and possible travel disruptions this summer," stated City Clerk del Valle.

While air travelers have had to show a passport to enter the U.S. from Canada or Mexico since 2007, this summer marks the first time U.S. citizens have to show a passport when entering the U.S. by land. In the past, driver's licenses and birth certificates were sufficient.

To apply for a U.S. Passport for the first time, each applicant must appear in person at an official passport acceptance facility with proof of U.S. citizenship, two passport-specific photos and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license or state ID. **Complete U.S. Passport services, including photo services, are available at Clerk del Valle City Hall's office at 121 N. LaSalle or at the City Clerk Satellite Offices at 5674 S. Archer Ave. and 5430 W. Gale St.**

Passport fees vary for regular service, which takes on average 4 to 6 weeks, or expedited process, which takes on average 3 or 4 weeks. Regular service fees are \$75 for adults and \$60 for children under age 16. Expedited process is \$135 for adults and \$120 for children.

Passport cards can only be used to enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda at land border crossings or sea ports-of-entry. The card, also available at the City Clerk's City Hall and Satellite Offices, is \$45 for adults and \$35 for children.

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The passport fee must be in the form of a money order or check made payable to U.S. Department of State. There is a separate \$25 execution fee that can be paid in cash, check or money order payable to the City Clerk. For more information about accepted forms of ID, passport photo requirements and a link to the Passport section of the U.S. Department of State's website, please visit the City Clerk del Valle's website at www.ChiCityClerk.com.

About City Clerk del Valle

Miguel del Valle was elected as Clerk of the City of Chicago in 2007. City Clerk del Valle's office is responsible for maintaining official city government records, issuing city licenses, and distributing approximately 1.3 million vehicle stickers. City Clerk del Valle is bringing more efficiency and visibility to City Clerk services by providing greater access to public records including web casting of City Council meetings, modernizing operations to expedite the sale of dog registration and city stickers.

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Editor's Note: Print-ready photos of individuals applying for passports are available upon request.