

**Observer Report****Human Services Committee****September 6, 2022**

**Members present:** Council Members Eleanor Revelle, Juan Geracaris, Bobby Burns, Devon Reid

**Staff:** Interim Corporate Counsel Derke Price

**Observer:** Jennifer Lee O'Neil, LWVE

CM Burns called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm. (CM Reid was present by phone, arrived in person at 5:20 and chaired meeting thereafter.) CM Revelle moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Approved 4-0.

Approval of Executive Session (August 17) minutes. CM Revelle moved approval. Approved 4-0

Public Comment:

Rob Bush, Parks & Recreation Board President strongly opposed change in nudity ban ordinance, and commented there has been no public input. He also suggested Human Services Committee might more appropriately focus on access to the lake by people with disabilities, or dealing with panhandling, reduce availability of guns, increase youth employment opportunities, or plan for the impact of new school in the 5<sup>th</sup> ward.

Max Thiele, Connections for the Homeless, spoke in support of amendment to fair housing ordinance protecting persons with covered criminal history.

(Agenda items re-ordered by CM Reid)

Items for consideration

HS2 Ordinance 88-O-22, Adding subsection 9-1-4-1 "Prohibiting the Use of No-Knock Warrants". Moved by CM Geracaris and seconded. Approved 4 - 0

Item for discussion

HS1 Ordinance 87-O-22, Adding subsection 9-1-4-2 "Miranda Warnings to be Issued"

Corporate Counsel and Chief Eddington both spoke in favor of codifying current practice. Question as to whether it came from Referrals. It was confirmed that it never forwarded to a committee by Referrals, so for discussion only at this meeting.

Item for consideration

HS1 Ordinance 79-O-22 Amending City Code Title 5, Chapter 5 "Fair Housing Ordinance" to include protections for persons with covered criminal history, and actual or perceived status as a victim of domestic violence. Burns moved, seconded by Geracaris. Sarah Flax clarified that the ordinance includes implementing regulations. CM Kelly spoke in favor so as to bring the fair housing ordinance into line with Cook County. Approved 4-0.

### Item for Discussion

HS2 Nudity Ban Ordinance – motion to discuss by Geracaris, seconded by Burns. Interim Corporate Counsel reviewed the memo in the packet and reiterated the opinion that the current ordinance is defensible. CM Reid questioned definition of “breast” and “gender”, asked how these could be clarified in the ordinance. Counsel responded that other communities have focused on lewd activity while recognizing the rights of the LGBTQ, especially transgender community. CM Reid stated this is not about topless beaches, wants a draft that does a better job, says Evanston ordinance not like any of the neighboring communities’ ordinances that do not use “male” and “female” terms. Counsel stated that the Council needs to drive the message then the attorneys can draft a different ordinance. CM Revelle says getting lots of feedback from public that overwhelmingly wants to leave the ordinance as it is. Reid continued to push for a change in the language to clarify and incorporate rights of LGBTQ members of community. Counsel pointed out that strong efforts are being made at the state level to ensure inclusive language.

(There was a technical problem resulting in a suspension of the meeting at 5:53 to resolve issue. Recording began again at 5:56.)

CM Reid asked CM Revelle if she would support language similar to other neighboring communities. She responded in the affirmative but said she is not confident that it would be helpful. Reid suggested Equity and Empowerment take a look at the issue with an equity lens. Burns made a plea to those present to avoid misinformation, especially the media. CM Burns moved to send to the Equity and Empowerment Commission for an equity review. Revelle seconded. Approved 4 – 0.

CM Reid adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.