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City of Chicago Housing and Real Estate Committee unanimously approves Proactive Rental Inspection Working Group

Chicago — Today, the [Chicago Healthy Homes Coalition](#) is proud to announce the approval of a Proactive Rental Inspection Working Group Ordinance by the Chicago City Council’s Committee on Housing and Real Estate. This is an important step towards adopting and implementing a Chicago Healthy Homes Ordinance aimed at inspecting units on a regular basis to ensure that they are safe and habitable and that property values are maintained.

According to the Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University, a little over half of all Chicagoans are renters. Many of these renters often face hazardous housing conditions that put their health and safety at risk. Currently, Chicago residents have to self-report violations, but it can take a long time for requests to be reviewed, let alone addressed. Taking a proactive approach not only centers the health and safety of renters, it also promotes housing stability by helping to ensure that tenants aren’t forced to relocate due to health harms they are experiencing.

The Working Group will be led by the Mayor’s Office and will include City departments that are involved in the current complaint-based rental inspection system. It is also tasked with seeking public input, including through at least three community outreach meetings on each of the North, West, and South sides of Chicago. After six months of meetings between City departments, community organizations, and public meetings, the Working Group will generate a report of proposed recommendations to coordinate existing efforts across City departments and to inform next steps toward establishing a proactive, citywide rental inspections program. This report will be shared with the Committee on Health and Human Relations before being presented to the full City Council.

Ordinance sponsor Ald. Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez (33rd Ward) has been a champion of the Coalition’s work. “Every person deserves a healthy place to call home, yet our children remain in constant danger because so much of our housing stock is outdated and falling into disrepair,” said Rodriguez-Sanchez. “In our ward, we hear the heartbreaking stories of families trapped in deteriorating conditions, and this ordinance is our chance to finally protect them from harmful toxins like lead poisoning, toxic mold, and carbon monoxide.”

Click to read the full [Working Group Ordinance](#). The Ordinance will be brought to full City Council for approval on March 18.

About the Chicago Healthy Homes Coalition

The [Chicago Healthy Homes Coalition](#) is a group of community organizations, health workers, and housing advocates who believe that housing is a key social determinant of health. The Coalition seeks to transform the City’s current complaint-based rental housing inspection system – which puts renters at risk and focuses on landlord compliance – into one that is transparent, proactive, and centered on renter health and well-being.