



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

### AMENDED BUS SAFETY ORDINANCE PASSES CITY COUNCIL

*The amended ordinance enacts stricter penalties for bus companies that refuse to comply with safety protocols.*

**CHICAGO** – Today, City Council approved an amended bus safety ordinance that will enact harsher penalties, including the impoundment and towing, of buses that refuse to comply with safety protocols set by the City. The safety protocols mandate that bus companies dropping off individuals in the City of Chicago must unload at the designated landing zone and must fill out the requisite paperwork to ensure an orderly process for intaking new arrivals.

“We have put these protocols in place because after being bussed thousands of miles, rogue bus operators are dropping new arrivals in Cicero, Rosemont, Schiller Park, and places other than our designated landing zone,” **said Mayor Brandon Johnson**. “This inhumane treatment further endangers the safety and security of asylum seekers, and adds additional strain to city departments, volunteers and mutual aid partners tasked with easing what is already a harsh transition.”

In recent weeks, bus companies contracted by the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, have dangerously attempted to skirt the safety provisions set by the City Council on November 18, 2023. Buses have attempted to drop new arrivals in the middle of traffic, on random street corners, and at O’Hare Airport. As temperatures continue to fall, the City is enacting harsher penalties to discourage bus companies from flouting the City’s safety measures.

Bus companies have also begun to attempt to drop in nearby municipalities including Rosemont, Cicero, and Schiller Park to skirt the law. Nearby municipalities have begun to pass similar safety ordinances to discourage bus companies from dropping asylum seekers without proper coordination.

Over the course of the New Arrivals Mission, bus companies sent from the southern border have unloaded asylum-seekers across the city, with little to no coordination with the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC). A



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delegation from the Mayor's Office met with officials at the southern border to attempt to facilitate stronger coordination.

The City of Chicago has welcomed over 25,600 new arrivals since the first buses were received from the southern border in August 2022. The City has successfully resettled or reunited over 10,000 new arrivals who have come to Chicago, despite 484 buses arriving in Chicago since May 12, 2023.

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