

Ordinance Analysis:

Declaration of Curfew for Mass Gatherings and Custody Procedure (SO2025-0016732)

During the April 30, 2025, Committee on Public Safety, Alderman Vasquez requested from COFA a cost analysis of SO2025-0016732 (Ald. Hopkins). **The following is a preliminary cost analysis that will be finalized by COFA once more information from the Through The Chair Request and department questions are answered.**

Situational Curfew: Cost Implications

The Ordinance proposes a situational curfew in response to teen group gatherings organized via social media, largely downtown, called “trends” or “takeovers.” The proposed Ordinance does not allocate additional funds for the Chicago Police Department (CPD), the Office of Emergency Management and Communications, or other relevant entities to enforce the curfew. However, there will be costs associated with implementation of the curfew. Budget estimates for curfew implementation will be dependent on the number of takeover events, the scale of the crowds, and the level of response deemed necessary to maintain order.

COFA looks forward to reviewing all the Through the Chair (TTC) requests following the April 30, 2025, Public Safety Committee hearing to refine the analysis of cost implications with this Ordinance. Certain TTC responses should provide more insight into the manpower requirements necessary to calculate more specific costs for CPD. Certain questions asked by Alders will not be answered, such as the request for CPD data on labor or overtime costs, though such information would provide the information necessary for a more detailed cost estimate for implementation.

While COFA does not have access to data or cost estimates that would support an analysis of the Ordinance, there are three primary categories of costs to consider with a City curfew. ***Costs related to CPD will likely require additional resources, while OEMC communications will be cost neutral.***

CPD Enforcement: There will be associated costs to enforce the curfew related to the number of officers deployed, overtime for officers, and additional relevant CPD staff necessary for communication and coordination. Further, additional costs to CPD will include fuel for vehicles, necessary equipment, such as barriers or signage, and reallocation of CPD resources from other areas of the City that may have financial impacts. Budgetary projections related to CPD enforcement would need to account for current CPD labor/overtime costs and equipment costs and may need to be revisited depending on increased frequency and scale of incidents.

CPD Settlements: Litigation fees and settlements for potential misconduct or other relevant lawsuits related to the Ordinance and enforcement will also generate costs for the City. It is difficult to ascertain the number of potential incidents in the future; however, the City is on track to surpass the allocated \$82 million FY 25 appropriation for settlements before the second quarter is completed. While the City of

Chicago Law Department does produce an annual report on CPD litigation that breaks down the number and category of incidents, though curfew violation is not one of the categories tracked by settlements.

OEMC Text Alert Costs: During the April 30 hearing, questions were raised regarding the cost associated with sending out mass text message alerts. In preliminary discussions with the OEMC, text message alerts that would be sent out during the curfew enforcement would be absorbed within the current appropriations for the 911 service system the City currently has contracted. The emergency alert text messages are unlimited as part of the current 911 telecom bundle package subscription. As such, text alerts communicating the curfew would be cost neutral.

Relevant background information

Without available data on curfew violations from CPD, a breakdown of CPD litigation specific to curfew enforcement, or labor and oversight data from CPD, COFA is unable to provide specific estimates related to enforcement of this Ordinance. However, the following information may provide insight into the implementation of a situational Citywide curfew:

Curfew violations in 2024:

- A WGN investigation [found](#) there were **539 curfew violations citywide 2024**, down more than 75% compared to 2018. Of these, **276 violations** of the city's curfew ordinance between May 1 and Sept. 30, 2024, [according](#) to a WTTW report based on data acquired from a FOIA request to CPD.
- Only 12 of those violations were recorded between 10 and 11 p.m. on a Friday or Saturday night, records show. 75 citations to the parents of teens who had violated the curfew three times in the past year or were also arrested on suspicion of committing a crime, according to CPD records obtained by WTTW.
- WGN suggests the decline in violations is due to less enforcement, rather than number of applicable activities in violation of existing curfews. Curfew enforcement may be impacted by police staffing; WGN notes Chicago has 1,600 fewer officers in 2025 than it did in 2019.

Settlements for police misconduct:

- On average over past 6 years, the City has paid \$78.73 million in misconduct settlements – with the past 4 years, except for 2023, significantly beyond that. With \$62 million [paid in settlements](#) in the first quarter of 2025 and a total of \$82 million budgeted for the entire year, the City will likely spend well beyond budgeted amounts for settlements.
- For the City as a whole, a [BGA analysis](#) estimates settlements and judgments – beyond those focused on misconduct -- have cost the city an average of \$93.6 million each year since 2010, with the police consistently making up around three-quarters the costs.
- In response to the proposed Ordinance, the City can anticipate potential litigation costs. The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois submitted letter, signed by 20 civil liberties groups, with intent to sue over proposed curfew.