



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)

**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF TO SPOUSES  
OF FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS**

**CHICAGO** – As part of an effort to support the families of brave and fallen first responders in the city, the City Council today approved an ordinance sponsored by Alderman Patrick Daley Thompson, 11<sup>th</sup> Ward, to provide property tax abatements for the husbands and wives of police officers, firefighters, paramedics, active soldiers and other first responders who have died in the line of duty.

“This ordinance is a small testament Chicago’s police officers, firefighters, soldiers and paramedics who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the city we love,” said Mayor Lightfoot. “While our debt to their service and sacrifice cannot possibly be repaid, their legacies are carried on by the families they loved – and we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure we can make their lives a little easier.”

As part of the ordinance, surviving spouses are eligible to apply for tax exemptions of the City’s property tax bill through the City Clerk of Chicago. Beginning next year with the 2019 property tax bills, the City’s portion of their property tax bill each year may be waived as long as they remain unmarried and reside in the qualified property where they lived with their wife or husband.

“We have a fundamental obligation to not only remember and honor those who dedicated their lives to service but also to ensure the families left behind have the support they need,” said Alderman Patrick Daley Thompson, 11<sup>th</sup> Ward. “This ordinance represents a small token of appreciation for our fallen first responders and their families, the least we can do for them in response to the ultimate sacrifices they made for us.”

The City of Chicago will work with the Cook County Board of Review to process and vet all tax abatement applications as part of the proposed ordinance. In 2012, the State of Illinois permitted tax abatements to the families of fallen first responders as long as the local and county governments authorized it.



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