



Office of the Chicago City
Clerk



R2011-772

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	7/6/2011
Sponsor(s):	Cardenas, George A. (12) Balcer, James (11) And Others
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Conduct of hearings on carcinogenic effects of cellular phone usage
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Health and Environmental Protection

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, On May 31, 2011 cellphones were placed in a "possibly carcinogenic to humans" category by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which develops scientific cancer-prevention strategies for World Health Organization; and,

WHEREAS, the agency's four categories for substances or agents are carcinogenic to humans, probably carcinogenic to humans, not classifiable and probably not carcinogenic to humans; and,

WHEREAS, cellphone users may be at increased risk for two types of rare tumors and should try to reduce their exposure to the energy emitted by the phones, according to this panel of 31 international scientists; and,

WHEREAS, the federal government and the mobile-phone industry have maintained that there is no conclusive data to support a link between cell-phone radiation and cancer, but a growing band of scientists are skeptical, suggesting that the evidence that does exist is enough to raise a warning for consumers, and,

WHEREAS, according to the study, 10% of people who used their phones most often and for the longest period of time — 30 minutes a day or more on average for at least 10 years — had a substantially higher risk of developing some form of brain cancer than those who didn't use a mobile phone at all; and,

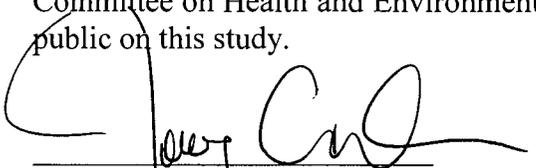
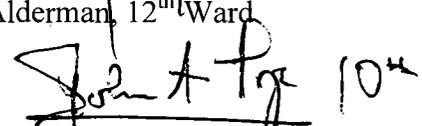
WHEREAS, people who used their cell phones infrequently had a lower risk of developing some brain tumors than those who exclusively used corded telephones — as if mobile phones in small doses might offer some protection from brain cancer; and,

WHEREAS, although limited, scientific evidence exists, to suggest that the radio-frequency energy released by cellphones may increase the risk of glioma, a type of brain cancer, and acoustic neuroma, a noncancerous tumor of the nerve that runs from the ear to the brain; and,

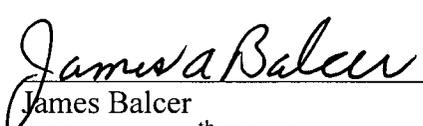
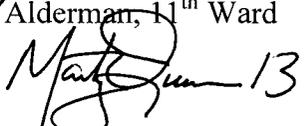
WHEREAS, many scientific questions remain, such as the lifetime risk of people who begin using wireless phones at a young age and just how cancer cells might arise from radio-frequency energy; and,

WHEREAS, this report will likely spur more calls for research, it's not clear how much it will affect government policies, the cellphone industry or consumers, or the public's interest in using headsets, speakerphone or text messaging, to reduce the amount of radiation reaching the brain; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council direct the Committee on Health and Environmental Protection to hold hearing(s) to educate and inform the public on this study.


George A. Cardenas
Alderman, 12th Ward

John A. Pige 10th

Jonna Lane 18th


James Balcer
Alderman, 11th Ward

Mark 13

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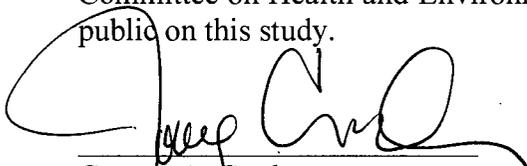
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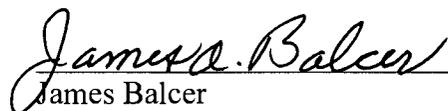
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Mary Jane 13th



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