



Office of the Chicago City  
Clerk



R2012-172

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 2/15/2012

**Sponsor(s):** Cardenas, George A. (12)  
Thompson, Joann (16)  
And Others, And Others (0)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Call for hearing(s) on effects of sugary beverages and obesity and implications of imposing higher sales tax on such beverages

**Committee(s) Assignment:** Committee on Health and Environmental Protection

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS In an article published by journal Nature on February 1, 2012, three researchers from the University of California, San Francisco argue that to reduce national sugar consumption the government should regulate it the way it regulates alcohol and tobacco; and

WHEREAS Sugar creates a “positive feedback cycle” in the brain which keeps the consumer coming back; and

WHEREAS Researchers claim that the attributes of sugar have made it difficult for educational efforts to get people to cut back on their intake, just as education is ineffective in addressing tobacco and alcohol use; and

WHEREAS Americans eat and drink roughly 22 teaspoons of sugar every day, three times as much as they did 30 years ago much of it hidden inside processed food and even bread and cereal; and

WHEREAS According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 112,000 deaths in the United States are associated each year with obesity and the total medical costs came to \$147 billion in 2008; and

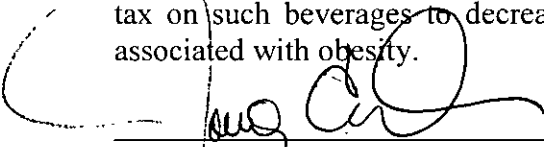
WHEREAS Adding a penny-per-ounce tax on any beverage with added sugar could not only help reduce obesity and its accompanying high health care costs but also generate much-needed revenue; and

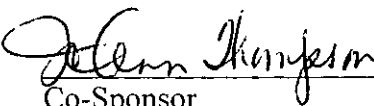
WHEREAS The projected benefits estimated by economist’s project 10 to 23 percent reduced consumption and \$50 billion in health care savings and \$150 billion in revenue over 10 years; and

WHEREAS Currently, 33 states have a sales tax on sugary beverages, while six impose excise taxes in addition to a sales tax; and

WHEREAS The City of Chicago’s current imposed tax on fountain soft drinks at retail is at the rate of nine percent of the cost price of the fountain soft drink sold at retail in the city; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Health and Environmental Protection hold hearing(s) with the various City, County and State Agencies to learn more about the effects of sugary beverages and obesity and the implications of imposing a higher sales tax on such beverages to decrease the number of people affected by chronic diseases associated with obesity.

  
George A. Cardenas  
Alderman, 12<sup>th</sup> Ward

  
Co-Sponsor

James Balcan" John A. Poye 10<sup>th</sup>

John A. Poye  
Amputee

Jan 46

J. Poye 45