



# City of Chicago



R2020-166

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	2/19/2020
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	O'Shea (19)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Call for hearing(s) on Alden Global Capital acquisition of controlling interest in Tribune Publishing and plans for continued investment in local newspapers
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	Committee on Workforce Development

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, The City of Chicago is committed to supporting local journalism, including fair economic investment in newsroom staffing and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, In November 2019, Alden Global Capital, the hedge fund described as a "destroyer of newspapers," increased its stake in Tribune Publishing Company to 32%, making it the largest shareholder of the company; and

**WHEREAS**, Alden's increased ownership in Tribune Publishing, which owns the *Chicago Tribune*, along with several other regional and local newspapers, is troubling because of its well-documented history of exacerbating financial problems by extracting short-term profits from already lean operations by dramatically slashing newsroom jobs and denying employees fair wages and benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Department of Labor is investigating Alden for taking nearly \$250 million worth of employee pension investments and reallocating them to its own funds; and

**WHEREAS**, Twenty-one U.S. Senators, in a letter to Alden's leadership, condemned the hedge fund's "pattern of profiteering" and its "newspaper-killing business model" as "bad for newspaper workers and retirees, bad for communities, bad for the public, and bad for democracy;" and

**WHEREAS**, Local news is vital to communities; research shows that it generates economic benefits to society, leads to increased political participation, and assists in holding elected officials accountable; and

**WHEREAS**, Immediate support and a vigorously expressed appreciation for local journalism are imperative because in mid-2020, Alden may have the opportunity to increase its stake or gain control of Tribune Publishing; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this nineteenth day of February, 2020, urge Alden Global Capital to take the following actions:

- Invest in Tribune Publishing and its newspapers so that they may more expansively perform their role in communities; and
- Not seek to increase ownership interest in Tribune Publishing; and
- Consider in good faith any offers from outside entities that would return Tribune Publishing newspapers to civic-minded ownership; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** That we call upon Alden Global Capital to appear before the City Council's Committee on Workforce Development to fully address this matter; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That suitable copies of this resolution be transmitted to Alden Global Capital and to Tribune Publishing Company as a sign of our dedication to and support of this important issue.



Matthew O'Shea  
Alderman, 19th Ward