



# City of Chicago



R2021-1301

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	11/17/2021
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Cardenas (12)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Call for hearing(s) on commissioning of feasibility study regarding City of Chicago purchasing Chicago Bears franchise
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	Committee on Committees and Rules

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A HEARING ON COMMISSIONING A  
FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING THE CITY PURCHASING THE CHICAGO BEARS**

**WHEREAS**, Founded in Decatur, Illinois on September 17, 1920 and moving to Chicago in 1921, the Chicago Bears franchise has been a source of pride and celebration – and sometimes anguish – to such an extent that the team has simply become part of Chicago culture; and

**WHEREAS**, A longtime partner of the City and the Chicago Parks District, the Chicago Bears have played at Soldier Field since 1971 and have called Chicago home for over 100 years; and

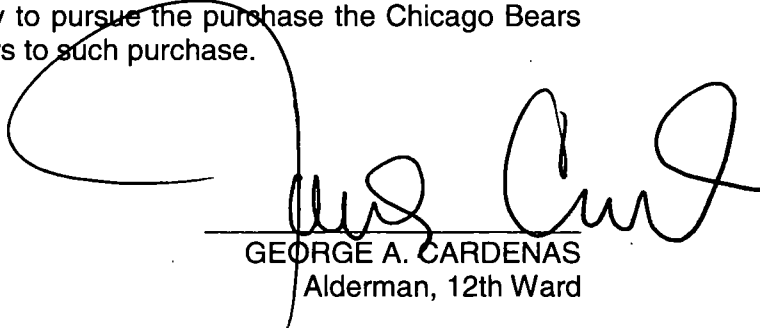
**WHEREAS**, It has only been 17 years since the completion of the \$690,000,000 renovation of Soldier Field, which has cost City taxpayers over \$432,000,000 to date, surpassing the original price tag of \$406,000,000; and

**WHEREAS**, Despite years of negotiations between the Park District and the team on further upgrades to Soldier Field, relationships have soured between the Park District and Bears ownership, and the Bears signed a purchase agreement for the Arlington International Racecourse in September 2021, signaling their intention to leave Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, There are several professional and semi-professional sports teams with unique ownership structures, including publicly-owned AA and AAA baseball teams and our rival from Chicago's far north suburb, Green Bay, Wisconsin, which is a publicly-held nonprofit franchise; and

**WHEREAS**, While there may be financial or legal barriers to the City acquiring an ownership stake in an NFL franchise – including the NFL bylaws regarding ownership and potential issues regarding the City having a stake in a for-profit enterprise or in a gaming position – the City Council feels the City should explore every opportunity to keep the Chicago Bears in Chicago, even if that means buying the team; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this seventeenth day of November, 2021, do hereby call upon the Committee on Finance to convene a hearing regarding the commissioning of a feasibility study on whether it is practical and advisable for the City to pursue the purchase the Chicago Bears franchise, including addressing any potential barriers to such purchase.

  
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GEORGE A. CARDENAS  
Alderman, 12th Ward

