

WHEREAS, the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois exercises extraordinary authority over the lives, liberty, and constitutional rights of residents throughout Chicago, Cook County, and communities across Northern Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the people of this community rely upon that office to enforce federal law fairly, professionally, and without regard to political pressure, public controversy, or viewpoint; and

WHEREAS, prosecutors are not ordinary advocates, but ministers of justice whose paramount obligation is to seek justice, not merely to obtain convictions; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice's own principles require that prosecutorial judgments be impartial, insulated from political influence, and supported by admissible evidence sufficient to obtain and sustain a conviction; and

WHEREAS, recent events involving the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois have raised grave concerns about leadership, judgment, candor to the courts, grand jury practice, and the appearance of political influence in prosecutorial decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the prosecution commonly known as the "Broadview Six" case began as a high-profile felony conspiracy case arising from protests outside an immigration enforcement facility in Broadview, Illinois, and was later narrowed, reduced, and ultimately dismissed with prejudice; and

WHEREAS, in connection with that prosecution, a federal judge identified serious concerns regarding the government's conduct before the grand jury, including alleged improper vouching, substantive communications with grand jurors outside the grand jury room, and the exclusion of grand jurors who disagreed with the government's theory of the case; and

WHEREAS, the court further expressed particular concern that portions of the grand jury transcripts reflecting such conduct had been redacted from versions submitted for judicial review, raising fundamental questions about candor, transparency, and the presumption of regularity traditionally afforded to federal prosecutors; and

WHEREAS, the collapse of the Broadview prosecution did not stand alone, as additional cases tied to the same grand jury and similar concerns have also fallen apart, including a separate prosecution dismissed with prejudice after a federal judge warned that “Pandora’s box has been opened”; and

WHEREAS, the apparent pattern of failed prosecutions, unusual grand jury “no bills,” dismissals, acquittals, and deferred prosecution outcomes in cases connected to Operation Midway Blitz has imposed serious burdens on defendants, undermined public confidence, and raised questions about whether charges were brought with the careful judgment federal prosecution demands; and

WHEREAS, more than one hundred former federal prosecutors who served in the Northern District of Illinois have publicly expressed grave concern that the office’s reputation for integrity, professionalism, and political independence has been tarnished; and

WHEREAS, those former prosecutors cited, among other concerns, the departure of experienced prosecutors, acknowledged grand jury irregularities, charging decisions resulting in unusual failures, and breaches of trust with judges; and

WHEREAS, those former prosecutors further warned that these developments raise questions about whether a failure of leadership exists and whether once-forbidden political considerations are infecting prosecutorial decisions; and

WHEREAS, Illinois elected officials, including United States Senators Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and United States Representative Jesús “Chuy” García, have called upon Andrew Boutros to resign, citing chaos, dysfunction, alleged misconduct, and loss of credibility; and

WHEREAS, this body recognizes that the United States Attorney’s Office must be able to prosecute violent crime, public corruption, fraud, trafficking, civil-rights violations, and other serious federal offenses with public trust and judicial confidence; and

WHEREAS, that trust is compromised when courts, former prosecutors, defendants, elected officials, and members of the public reasonably question whether charging decisions are being made based on evidence and law rather than political utility or institutional defensiveness; and

WHEREAS, federal prosecutions carry enormous consequences even when charges are later dismissed, including reputational harm, legal expense, emotional distress, and chilling effects on First Amendment activity; and

WHEREAS, this body does not seek to interfere with legitimate federal law enforcement, nor to excuse unlawful conduct, but instead seeks to uphold the principle that law enforcement must be lawful, impartial, transparent, and worthy of public confidence; and

WHEREAS, the Northern District of Illinois has a proud and nationally respected history of prosecuting serious crime and public corruption while adhering to the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, restoring that reputation requires more than internal statements, unspecified reforms, or after-the-fact dismissals; it requires accountability, transparency, and leadership that commands confidence from courts, prosecutors, defendants, victims, local governments, and the public; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative record of recent events demonstrates that Andrew Boutros no longer possesses the public confidence necessary to lead the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Chicago City Council, that this body calls upon United States Attorney Andrew Boutros to resign his position as United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body calls upon the United States Department of Justice, the President of the United States, and all officials involved in the selection or appointment of the next United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois to pursue an open, transparent, merit-based, and nonpartisan process for identifying new leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body calls upon the Department of Justice to ensure a full and independent review of grand jury practices, charging decisions, disclosure practices, supervisory review, and compliance with professional-responsibility obligations in matters connected to Operation Midway Blitz, the Broadview prosecutions, and any related proceedings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body urges the Department of Justice to publicly report, to the maximum extent permitted by law and consistent with the rights of affected

individuals, what corrective actions have been taken to restore prosecutorial integrity, judicial confidence, and public trust; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body affirms its support for the dedicated career prosecutors, staff, investigators, public defenders, defense counsel, court personnel, jurors, and judges whose work depends upon a justice system that is fair, independent, and accountable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the United States Department of Justice Office of Professional Responsibility, the United States Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, United States Senators Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, the members of the Illinois congressional delegation, and United States Attorney Andrew Boutros.

M. Q. R. 22