



The Recognized Leader and voice dedicated to serving
the needs of the apartment industry through advocacy,
education and networking.

June 10, 2019

The Honorable Susan Sadlowski-Garza
Chairman, Committee on Workforce Development and Audit
City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 300
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Sadlowski-Garza:

The Chicagoland Apartment Association is opposed to the so-called “Chicago Fair Work Week Ordinance” because, first and foremost, we believe collective bargaining issues should be resolved within the collective bargaining process (not the legislative process). We request reconsideration of this legislation’s implications to all apartment owners in the City of Chicago who employ security, janitorial, and maintenance professionals and rely on collective bargaining processes, separate from local or state mandates, to dictate terms of employment.

Restrictive Scheduling will have substantial, long-lasting impacts on Chicago workers and businesses in every neighborhood and many industries as it has in Seattle, New York, and Philadelphia. Consider a situation in which a small building owner is obligated to call in a technician to alleviate a maintenance emergency (frozen pipes, snow clearing, water heater failure, sewer back-ups, etc.). Although out of the owner’s control, the owner is in violation of the ordinance if he or she is forced to call in the technician during non-scheduled hours. Avoiding a fine or penalty under the ordinance by leaving the emergency unresolved could interfere with operations and housing quality. Payment of fines or penalties for tending to the emergency is ultimately shifted to rents, affecting the building’s affordability. This is just one example of the many ways this ordinance harms the apartment industry, which should be exempted from this ordinance because housing is a 24/7 industry.

It is critical for all those involved – the City Council, business community and organized labor – to consider the implications of certain provisions in the ordinance and ensure it is drafted to exempt employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement for all employees, as is being proposed for construction workers covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Mini".

Michael J. Mini
Executive Vice President
Chicagoland Apartment Association

cc: Members, Committee on Workforce Development