



Nov. 20, 2017

42nd Ward Alderman Brendan Reilly
325 W. Huron, Suite 510
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Alderman Reilly:

On behalf of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, an organization representing 2,700 licensed veterinarians and certified veterinary technicians, I am writing to express the veterinary profession's opposition to your proposed ordinance amending Municipal Code Section 9-108-090 concerning an increase in air temperature as it pertains to the operation of horse-drawn carriages in Chicago. As doctors of veterinary medicine, we have reviewed the guidelines currently governing the care, work times and temperatures for carriage horses in Chicago and have found them appropriate and within acceptable welfare limits. In our professional opinion, there is no scientific or health reason to change the temperatures in which the Chicago carriage horses work.

We also had a colleague, who is an expert equine health in both in Illinois and internationally, review the proposed ordinance and have enclosed his assessment of the impact of the temperature change on the health of the carriage horses. As you will note, he does not find any scientific or health reason to change the temperatures in which the horses work. Nor, did the attached study of stress levels in New York City Carriage horses published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, January, 2017 edition.

Your concern about animal welfare is appreciated and we are available to share information and scientific data to help you gain a better understanding of the stamina and fortitude of the working horse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Ebbesmeyer".

Robert Ebbesmeyer, DVM
President

cc: Chicago Licensing and Consumer Protection Committee