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City's anti-harassment policy should be applicable to ALL employees

In recent days, the city's anti-harassment policy has been the subject of much discussion as an investigation by the city's Department of Employee Relations (DER) concluded that the policy does not apply to elected officials. As a result, **Alderman JoCasta Zamarripa** and **Alderman Michael J. Murphy** are introducing a resolution directing the DER to determine the best way to make the anti-harassment policy applicable to all city employees, elected or otherwise.

Alderman Zamarripa, the resolution's lead sponsor, believes this action is much needed. "I was surprised and dismayed to learn that the city's anti-harassment policy does not apply to elected officials, just as many residents were," she said. "This proposition is a simple one, as harassment should never be acceptable and there should be accountability for those who breach the trust of their co-workers."

Alderman Murphy, the primary co-sponsor, shares the sentiment. "As an employer the city should have a strong stance against acts of harassment and there should be mechanisms in place to remedy these situations when they occur. Whether or not the offender in these situations is an elected official shouldn't mean the appropriate policy cannot be enforced."

Alderman Marina Dimitrijevic has also signed on as a co-sponsor of the file, which will be heard at a future Council committee meeting.