

CITATIONS FOR CHICAGO GOP CHICK FIL-A COMPLAINT

7/25/12 Tribune Story:

"But Moreno said he's fighting for civil rights, has legal grounds to block the Logan Square restaurant and is representing the views of the people who live in his Northwest Side ward."

"Moreno called gay marriage the civil rights issue "of our time," saying he tried for months but could not persuade the company to include language in its [employee handbooks](#) that barred discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people."

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-07-25/news/ct-met-chicago-chick-fil-a-0726-20120726_1_gay-marriage-legal-challenge-open-arms

7/26/12 Moreno's Trib OpEd:

"Home Depot in the 2500 block of North Elston Avenue wants to sell a piece of its land so that a Chick-fil-A restaurant can open in the 1st Ward, where I am alderman. It would be the fast-food chain's first "stand-alone" Chicago restaurant. But to subdivide the land, the companies need my approval.

Initially, I had some traffic concerns with their plan. But then I heard the bigoted, homophobic comments by Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy, who recently came out against same-sex marriage.

There are consequences for one's actions, statements and beliefs. Because of this man's ignorance, I will deny Chick-fil-A a permit to open a restaurant in my ward."

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-07-26/news/ct-perspec-0726-moreno-20120726_1_anti-gay-comments-1st-ward-homophobic-comments

7/27/12 NBC News Chicago:

Moreno said Wednesday he wouldn't approve a company that discriminates against a segment of the community. "I think it's irresponsible to have discriminatory policies from the top down," Moreno told NBC Chicago. "They're not coming in."

Source: <http://www.nbcchicago.com/blogs/ward-room/Rahm-Chick-fil-A-Chicago-164043916.html#ixzz21r1HO9Be>

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/blogs/ward-room/Rahm-Chick-fil-A-Chicago-164043916.html>

7/25/12 WBEZ 91.5 News:

"When we look at zoning, when we look at having businesses in our ward, we have to look at if they're responsible actors," Moreno said Wednesday in the back room of the city council chamber. "And responsibility means not being discriminatory."

Moreno said he is "not going to be scared" of any potential lawsuit from the company, and said his view could change if Chick-fil-A worked with him on an "anti-discriminatory LGBTQ policy."

In most cases, though not all, aldermen get final say on these kinds of local issues, and Moreno's stance has the support of zoning committee chair, 25th Ward Ald. Danny Solis.

"This is a personal position of Alderman Moreno and I'm going to respect that," Solis said. Solis also said that if any aldermen wanted a Chick-fil-A in their ward, he would not stand in their way either.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel appeared to go even farther, with comments that open the door to a citywide ban.

"Chick-fil-A's values are not Chicago values. They're not respectful of our residents, our neighbors and our family members," Emanuel said.

When Moreno was pressed on whether he'd block zoning requests from all businesses with that view, the alderman acknowledged such a hard line was not practical.

"I don't have the resources and the time to question every single business in my ward, I've a lot of them. But when someone comes out forward [against gay marriage], if someone is proactively presenting this position, I have to react," Moreno said.

<http://www.wbez.org/news/alderman-lines-hefty-support-effort-block-chick-fil-101196>

7/25/12 CBS Chicago

Some aldermen have suggested Moreno's opposition to a Chick-Fil-A in his ward infringes on free speech, but Mayor Rahm Emanuel stood by Moreno's stance on Wednesday.

"Chick-Fil-A's values are not Chicago values," the mayor said. "They're not respectful of our residents, our neighbors, and our family members. And if you're going to be part of the Chicago community, you should reflect the Chicago values."

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2012/07/25/report-alderman-plans-to-block-chick-fil-a-over-comments-on-gay-marriage/>

7/25/12 Chicago Trib article:

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, long a supporter of gay marriage, remains in Moreno's corner, as does Ald. Daniel Solis, 25th, the zoning committee chairman whose support Moreno will need to make his decision stick.

If the council were to stick with tradition and follow Moreno's lead in his own ward — and base its decision solely on Cathy's statements — the city likely would not withstand a constitutional legal challenge on free-speech grounds, said Harold Krent, dean of the Chicago-Kent College of Law.

"What a wonderful way to get political visibility and rally the troops, by coming out against Chick-fil-A or anyone else on those grounds, but it's the same point that potentially undermines their legal position later," he said.

But Krent also said that if the full council backed Moreno, citing other concerns such as the restaurant traffic issues that Moreno also noted, a city denial could hold up in court. That's the route that Solis, the zoning panel chairman, suggested Moreno follow.

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-07-25/news/ct-met-chicago-chick-fil-a-0726-20120726_1_gay-marriage-legal-challenge-open-arms

7/26/12 Daily Caller

Calling gay marriage the civil rights struggle of our time, Moreno's Director of Legislative Affairs & Communications Matthew Bailey also said that belief in gay marriage would not be a litmus test for approval in the ward. In the case of Chick-Fil-A, Bailey said that Moreno's office felt action needed to be taken because Chick-Fil-A represented itself as apolitical to the Alderman's office all while publicly stating opposition to gay marriage.

Bailey said that his boss has had concerns with the proposed fast food location since Chick-Fil-A first applied for permitting nearly a year ago. Moreno "challenged their positions of homophobia," said Bailey.

Bailey did not believe that it was hypocritical or intolerant to deny the proposal to Chick-Fil-A because Morero disagrees with Cathy's politics. "We are a progressive ward," said Bailey, "the 1st Amendment is wonderful, but it's not a right for a business to make a profit."

Read more: <http://dailycaller.com/2012/07/26/chick-fil-a-not-welcome-in-chicago-either/#ixzz21r5O1800>

7/26/12 WBEZ 91.5 News:

Moreno told WBEZ that the owners seeking to build the restaurant have said they won't support any groups with a political agenda, including those with an anti-gay marriage stance.

Moreno says if he gets an explicit guarantee from the franchise owner he will consider granting zoning rights to a new Chick-fil-A in Logan Square.

"If they're serious about that, and they're willing to put that in writing and they're willing to adopt that. I think those are the grounds where we can move forward," Moreno said.

<http://www.wbez.org/ald-proco-joe-moreno-open-new-talks-logan-square-chick-fil-101227>

7/26/12 CBS Chicago:

Ald. Daniel Solis (25th), who chairs the Zoning Committee, said Thursday if Moreno's only objection when Chick-Fil-A comes before the panel for approval of its plans to build in Logan Square is company president Dan Cathy's public comments against same-sex marriage, he'd have to override Moreno's "aldermanic privilege" regarding zoning for the restaurant.

Although it's not an official part of the city code, in the vast majority of cases, Chicago aldermen enjoy the power of "aldermanic privilege" when deciding what businesses receive the needed zoning to open shop in their wards.

That means, if an alderman does not support a specific project for his ward, even if most other aldermen would support it, they typically bow to their colleague's wishes on zoning matters. However, on rare occasions, the City Council has ignored the tradition of "aldermanic privilege," on such matters.

Solis said that could happen in the ongoing dispute between Moreno and Chick-Fil-A if Moreno isn't careful how he proceeds in his efforts to block the chain from opening a restaurant in Logan Square.

"I'm not going to be considering my recommendation on that item, if it gets presented to that committee based on the human rights issue," Solis said. "I'm going to be considering it on the zoning issues, whether it's traffic, safety, right of way issues – and that's going to be the basis of our decision."

Moreno has said he also has concerns about the traffic a drive-through Chick-Fil-A would create in the ward, but his most vocal objection to date has been Cathy's public comments opposing same-sex marriage.

"I'm not gonna sit on the sidelines, and allow them to come in, when I know in my heart that they believe in discriminating against gay people," Moreno said Wednesday.

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2012/07/26/local-chick-fil-a-owner-invites-mayor-emanuel-to-visit/>