



CITY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 026-059
DATE OF PASSAGE September 8, 2026

An Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article 2-IV, Sec 2-277 pertaining to residency requirements for department heads for the Police and Fire Departments.

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora has a population of more than 25,000 persons and is, therefore, a home rule unit under subsection (a) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, subject to said Section, a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora periodically reviews and updates its municipal code provisions to ensure they reflect current operational needs, best practices, and longstanding employment conditions within City departments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it necessary and appropriate to amend Section 2-277 to clarify residency requirements applicable to department heads, specifically those related to the residency expectations of the City Chief of Police and City Fire Chief; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule authority, the City seeks to maintain continuity and flexibility in departmental leadership while ensuring that residency requirements reflect modern operational realities and best practices in public safety administration;)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION ONE: The City of Aurora Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Section 2.77 is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit A, to amend the residency requirements for the Chief of Police and Fire Chief.

SECTION TWO: SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 026-059
DATE OF PASSAGE September 8, 2026

SECTION THREE: REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES. All prior Resolutions and Ordinances in conflict or inconsistent herewith are hereby expressly repealed only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION FOUR: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately from and after its passage and approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 0216-059

LEGISTAR NO. 216-0447

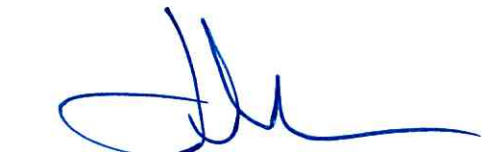
PASSED AND APPROVED ON: September 8, 2026

AYES 11 NAYS 1 NOT VOTING 0 ABSENT 0

ALDERMAN	Vote
Alderman Barreiro, Ward 1	yes
Alderwoman Garza, Ward 2	yes
Alderman Mesiacos, Ward 3	no
Alderman Núñez, Ward 4	yes
Alderman Franco, Ward 5	yes
Alderman Saville, Ward 6	yes
Alderman Bañuelos, Ward 7	yes
Alderwoman Smith, Ward 8	yes
Alderman Bugg, Ward 9	yes
Alderwoman Baid, Ward 10	yes
Alderman Larson, At-Large	yes
Alderman White, At-Large	yes

ATTEST:


City Clerk Jennifer Stallings


Mayor John Laesch

1 Sec 2-277 Department Heads

2 1. In general. Each department shall be subject to the
3 direction and control of the department head of the department.
4 Each department head shall report to the mayor.

5 2. Appointment. Each department head shall be appointed by
6 the mayor and confirmed by the city council. The job description
7 of each department head shall be as established by the mayor and
8 provided to the city council at committee of the whole, along with
9 a summary of qualifications, at the time of appointment and
10 proposed confirmation of both the proposed job description and
11 appointment separately by city council.

12 3. Residency Requirement. Each department head shall either
13 be a resident of the city at the time of appointment and
14 confirmation by the city council, or within twelve (12) months of
15 the date of appointment and confirmation by city council which
16 time period may be extended upon the approval of the mayor and the
17 city council. The requirements of this paragraph shall not
18 constitute a qualification for office, but shall be a condition of
19 employment, for which the willful failure to comply shall
20 constitute sufficient cause for discipline, up to and including,
21 termination. The residency requirement set forth in this paragraph
22 shall not apply to department heads who were appointed prior to
23 September 12, 2017 (the effective date of Ordinance 017-063) or
24 were otherwise employed by the city in a capacity other than as a

1 department head prior to September 12, 2017. The residency
2 requirement set forth herein does not apply, however, to department
3 heads whose duties require professional licensure, or, in the
4 opinion of the city council at the time of appointment, require
5 specialized training or knowledge. The professional licensure at
6 time of hiring, must be a requirement for that position.

7 3.4. Notwithstanding the requirements of subparagraph 3, the
8 City Chief of Police and City Fire Chief must reside within the
9 city limits, within fifteen (15) miles of the city limits, or
10 within a municipality which is located, in part, no more than
11 fifteen (15) miles from city limits.