Tabares backs tax breaks for police, firefighter widows

From staff reports

Twenty-third Ward Silvana Tabares was among those proposed backing legislation in the City Council that will provide property tax relief to the widows and widowers of Chicago police officers and firefighters who die in the line of duty.

The measure, authored by 11th Ward Ald. Patrick Daley Thompson, passed on a 46-0 voice vote on Oct. 16.

"This ordinance will help to provide relief for families who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to the residents of the City of Chicago," Tabares said. "We need more action like this at the city level, to show first responders and their families that we have their backs by passing real concrete measures, not just through rhetoric."

The ordinance will permanently waive city property taxes for the surviving husbands and wives of Chicago Police officers, firefighters and other first-responders killed in the line of duty. The abatement would apply only to Chicago's property tax levy, typically 20 to 25 percent of the overall tax bill. Chicago Public Schools would be "held harmless," as would and other agencies of local government.

"I urged my colleagues in the City Council to support this important measure," Tabares added, "and I urge any residents with questions regarding this measure or other issues regarding property taxes to reach out to my office for assistance."