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## Council gets new NATO/G8 plan, OKs local contract preference

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There was lots of news at Wednesday's City Council meeting — some good, some bad, some dumb. You get to put the items in the right category.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel won passage of his bill expanding the preference given to local firms in bidding on \$2 billion a year in city contracts.

The ordinance provides that when competing bids submitted by manufacturers or service providers are equivalent, the local firm will get the deal if its price is within 2 percent of the low bid.

Mr. Emanuel also announced a \$300,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation that will be used to consolidate the city's various databases into a single platform.

Having all the information in one place will make it easier to make smart decisions, the mayor said.

As promised, Ald. Ricardo Munoz, 22nd, introduced legislation to limit the city's ability to interfere with protesters during the upcoming NATO/G8 summits.

The ordinance would prevent the city or police from shutting down cellphone towers, blocking access to the Internet and social media sites and websites, or using confiscated electronic devices to locate individuals or target specific websites.

The proposal also states that it is the city's policy not to engage in or cooperate with preventive detention without a criminal warrant, and it calls for forming a temporary media committee to credential the wide range of journalists expected to be in town.

Finally, Ald. Proco Joe Moreno, 1st, wants Chicago residents to fill every single one of the construction jobs to be created with \$20 million in federal funds the city recently was awarded to expand its bike-sharing program and to eliminate slow zones on the Chicago Transit Authority's Blue Line.

The proposal is only a resolution. Mr. Moreno said he wanted to make it compulsory, but he was told that was illegal, so the resolution only "urges" the hiring of "qualified Chicago residents."

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