

# Wilbur Wright College

Asylum Seeker Sheltering Discussion

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023



For Official Use Only



- ❑ Over **9,926 individuals and family members** have arrived to Chicago since August 31, 2022.
- ❑ Arriving from across the globe, primarily from Central and South America.
- ❑ The first phase of arrivals were sent by the State of Texas with no coordination with the City.
- ❑ Asylum seekers are also arriving via plane and other means, seeking shelter.

- ❑ No funds diverted from the regular homeless shelter system to support the migrant mission.
- ❑ The City is identifying shelter spaces, providing the basic needs and advocating to the federal government for support and to fix this system.
- ❑ All hands-on-deck including City staff, State and County officials, delegate agencies, faith leaders, community leaders and volunteers.



- ❑ Since August 2022, the City has established 20 shelters, 3 respite centers, & 2 airport staging areas throughout the city to quickly and safely provide shelter to new arrivals.
  - ❑ Space fits 250+ with space for eating, showers, and must pass safety tests
  - ❑ An empty space does not equate an adequate shelter
  - ❑ The City is limited to spaces within city limits as that is our only jurisdiction
  - ❑ The State or County would be responsible for finding other spaces if they wanted to create shelter outside the City of Chicago
  - ❑ The federal government has not issued a disaster declaration; therefore certain resources, such as Red Cross, unavailable

- ❑ The overflow is stressing our police stations.
- ❑ **Over 700 persons** currently sleeping on police station floors, primarily families with small children.
- ❑ Wright College community can help ease the pressure felt at our police stations.
- ❑ Committed to ongoing conversation & work with City officials to discuss what comes next for this space.



Photos:  
Chicago  
Tribune

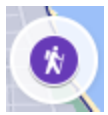
- All current new arrivals shelters and respite centers **are at or near capacity**

**Sheltering is based on inventory available**

Current Shelter & Respite Center Locations			
Location	Ward	Community Area	Shelter Type
High Ridge YMCA	50	West Ridge	Families
Inn of Chicago	42	Near North Side	Families
Shield of Hope	27	Humboldt Park	Single Men and Single Women
Wadsworth Elementary	20	Woodlawn	Single Men and Single Women
YWLA	4	Douglas	Single Men and Single Women
Social Club	4	The Loop	Single Men and Single Women
North Park Village	39	North Park	Families
Leone Beach Park	49	Rogers Park	Families
Brands Park	33	Avondale	Families
Piotrowski Park	22	South Lawndale	Families



## Map showing current New Arrival Shelters and Respite Sites



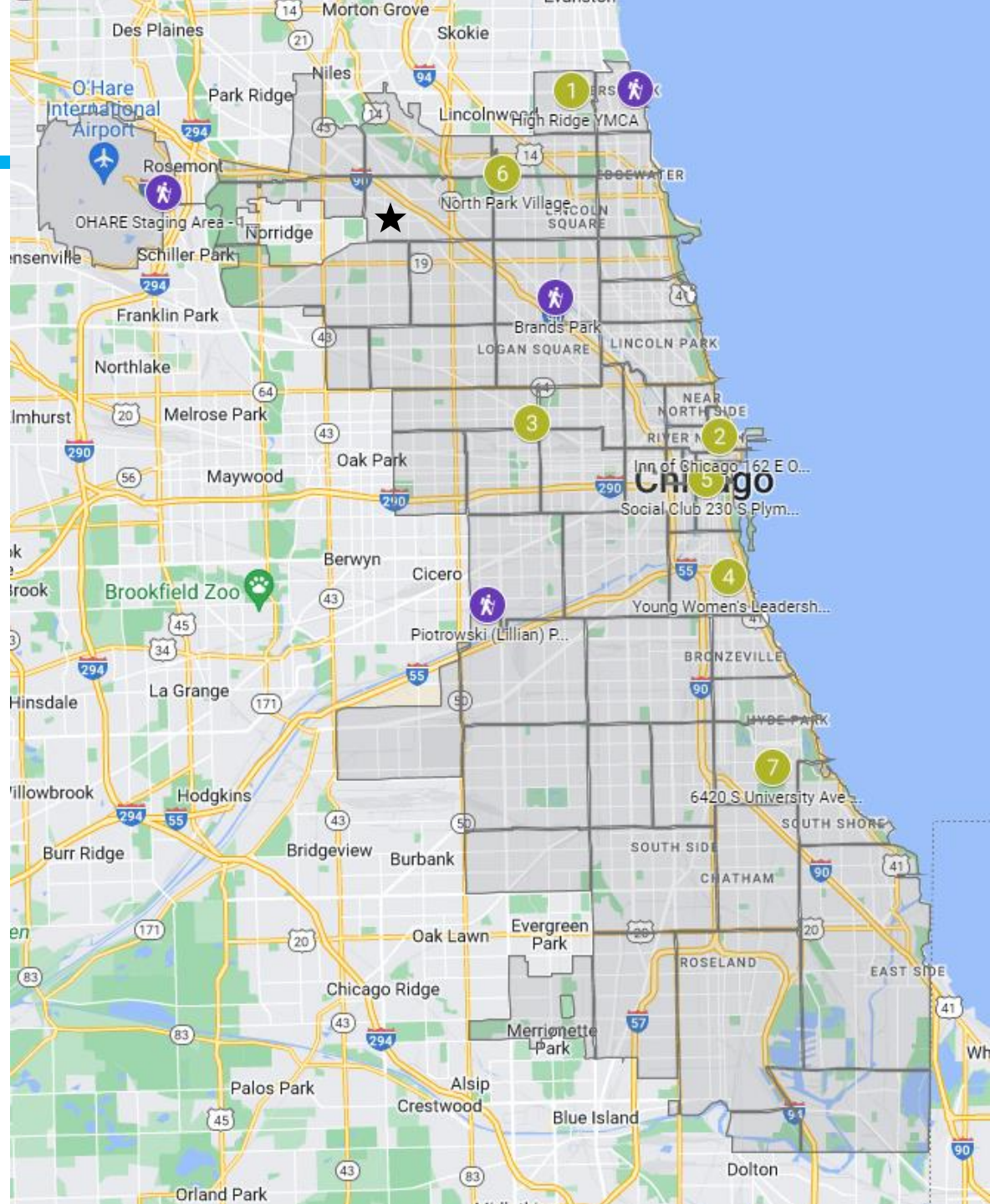
Respite Sites (3)



Shelter Sites (7)



Wright College





**CHICAGO**

## Shelter and Respite Center Considerations

- ❑ Over 200 locations vetted. Many facilities did not meet health, safety, and capacity requirements.
- ❑ Wright College is meeting the moment by opening their space as a respite center.

- What will be provided at Wright College:
  - Cots, blankets, towels, showers, hygiene kits, laundry services, and feeding
  - Children's supplies, including food
  - Transportation to healthcare screenings
  - Majority Bilingual Staff
- Clients allowed to leave the building. Overnight curfew enforced.
- Situation is fluid as we wait for eventual buses and continue to see a steady number of daily 311 shelter requests
- Will prioritize families for this respite center but operations are fluid

- ❑ **Comprehensive Medical Exams** are performed after entry into the shelter/ respite system at a local clinic, usually within 72 hours. New arrivals are screened for a wide range of illnesses and health conditions at that time.
- ❑ **Shelter-Based Care** Onsite medical care is provided about 1-2 times weekly at shelters and respite centers by shelter-based care providers
- ❑ **Community Health Work & Social Services** Federally Qualified Health Center partners are going to City shelters to provide information and connections to additional medical and social services, as a third layer of care.
- ❑ **Mobile Health/Urgent Care** Urgent care services are provided on site at police districts and other locations for individuals not immediately placed in a City shelter or respite center due to a lack of space, by teams of volunteer health providers.

## What rules and expectations are there for residents?

- Rules include:
  - No visitors or walk-ins
  - Abide by 11PM curfew
  - Sign in and out with front desk staff.
  - No drugs and alcohol allowed
  - Clients must respect the entire property and treat it carefully.
  - Smoking is not permitted.
- Residents may be discharged for violation of rules
  - Unless the reason for discharge is violence or active threat toward others, resident may be placed at another location

- Earliest possible move-in date: **May 27th**
- Will serve as a Congregate Respite Center
- Families only (no single adults)
- Capacity: **Up to 400 Persons**
- Shower access only available during designated hours

- CPD's 16th District Station – Decompression
  - Up to 40 asylum seekers have been waiting for sheltering at the 16th district on any given day since late April
  - All asylum seekers waiting at the station will be decompressed to other locations upon the opening of Wright College
  - Daily decompression will take place (as needed) at the 16th district.
- Vacating Wright College
  - The City will commit to departing Wright College by **Aug 1st**
  - The City has made similar commitments to previous asylum seeker shelters (including Truman College), and has honored all deadlines
  - The City will properly demobilize the gym and atrium, and will provide deep cleaning services soon thereafter

- Security outside campus: CPD
  - Special attention
  - Frequent building checks on every watch
  - Logbook and interactivity with onsite security
- Together with onsite security resulting in 24/7 security
- Non-emergency contact available:  
[officeofnewamericans@cityofchicago.org](mailto:officeofnewamericans@cityofchicago.org)



- The City is working with the State on long-term transition plans for new arrivals across City shelters and advocating for federal resources.



- Workforce Opportunities
  - Community residents may apply for shelter positions at <https://www.favoritestaffing.com/apply>
  - Community residents may apply for security positions at <https://www.skytechsecurity.com>
  - To learn more about workforce development programs and other community resources, visit <http://www.chicago.gov/fss>
- Immediate requests – 311

## **Contact Information:**

[officeofnewamericans@cityofchicago.org](mailto:officeofnewamericans@cityofchicago.org)



**We want to hear from you!**  
Questions and Comments

# **APPENDIX**

# Panel

- Moderator – Vance Henry
- MO, Rey Wences
- MO, Jesus Del Toro
- OEMC, Matt Doughtie
- DFSS, Maura McCauley, Christine Riley
- CPD, Deputy Chief Chung & District Commander Heather L. Daniel