

# **RULES FOR SPEAKER'S PLATFORM DURING THE 2024 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Pursuant to Section 2-102-030(l) of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation hereby issues the following Rules regarding management of the Speaker's Platform (as defined below) during the 2024 Democratic National Convention.

## **PART A: INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Purpose**

The City of Chicago strongly supports the rights of persons and organizations to safely assemble and lawfully exercise their First Amendment rights during the 2024 Democratic National Convention ("DNC"). The City, through the Chicago Department of Transportation ("CDOT"), will provide a stage and sound amplification equipment ("Speaker's Platform") to persons and organizations who wish to use such equipment when exercising their First Amendment rights in proximity to the United Center on August 19-22, 2024. The following Rules are designed to allow persons and organizations to exercise their First Amendment rights while also managing the limited spaces available for expressive activity and facilitating the safe and orderly movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic on nearby rights of way during the DNC.

### **2. Scope**

These Rules supplement, and do not supplant, the requirements for public events as set out in the Municipal Code, including Sections 10-8-330 and 10-8-334. Nothing in these Rules shall be deemed as waiving the requirements for a permit pursuant to Section 10-8-330 (Parade), where required, or Section 10-8-334 (Public Assembly), where required. Persons or organizations seeking to parade or assemble in public areas in addition to or in lieu of using the Speaker's Platform are directed to apply for such permits as required by the Municipal Code.

### **3. Definitions**

"Applicant" means a person or organization that applies to use the Speaker's Platform.

"Speaker" means an individual who is assigned to speak representing an organizational Applicant to whom a time slot is awarded to speak at the Speaker's Platform pursuant to these rules.

## **PART B: AVAILABILITY OF SPEAKER'S PLATFORM**

### **4. Location**

The Speaker's Platform will be located within Park No. 578 at 1919 West Maypole Avenue, or land adjacent thereto. The City, through CDOT, will schedule the use of the Speaker's Platform at this location in accordance with these Rules.

### **5. Schedule**

The Speaker's Platform will be made available during the hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on August 19-22, 2024.

## **PART C: APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **6. Application Required**

Any person or organization who seeks to use the Speaker’s Platform must submit an application for a particular time slot(s) in accordance with these Rules. Submission of an application does not guarantee award of a time slot.

## **7. Time Slots**

CDOT will accept applications to fill a total of 32 available Speaker’s Platform time slots between 11 am and 7 pm on August 19-22, 2024 (“Operating Hours”). Each time slot will begin on the hour and end 45 minutes past the hour, with the first time slot being 11-11:45 a.m. on August 19, 2024, and the final time slot being 6-6:45 p.m. on August 22, 2024. The stage will be cleared for a 15-minute transition period in between each time slot.

Applicants may rank up to 32 total time slots in order of preference on the application form. Applicants will not be considered for time slots they do not rank.

## **8. Form and Submission**

Applicants must complete the Speaker’s Platform application form (“Request for Speaking Time Slot”) available on the CDOT website, <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdot.html>.

Applicants shall submit completed applications by email to the official email address indicated on the application form. Walk in applications or emails sent to an alternate email address will not be accepted.

## **9. Selection**

**(a)** Applicants who, prior to the date of issuance of these Rules,

(i) applied for a parade permit or public assembly permit that includes Park No. 578 during the Operating Hours of the Speaker’s Platform; or

(ii) applied for a parade permit or public assembly permit that does not include Park 578 but to whom the City has made a pending offer for a parade route or public assembly that includes Park No. 578 during the Operating Hours of the Speaker’s Platform,

will be given first priority for a time slot falling within the time of their permitted or offered parade or public assembly, with priority being determined based on the date of their parade or assembly permit application.

**(b)** Otherwise, all time slots will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, in the order applications are received by email (provided that the applications are complete and valid). Thus, to the extent time slots have been filled by earlier Applicants, subsequent Applicants will be awarded the highest of their ranked time slots that remains unfilled. If none of the Applicant’s ranked time slots remain available at the time their application is considered, they will not be granted a time slot.

## **10. Application Period and Deadlines**

Applications will be accepted beginning at 9:00 a.m. on August 6, 2024. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2024 to be considered. Time slots will be awarded and applicants will be notified by CDOT by August 14, 2024.

## **11. Duplicate Applications and Additional Availability**

Due to limited availability, each applicant may submit only one application, and each applicant will only be granted a maximum of one time slot during the Operating Hours, and will not be considered for additional time slots.

If time slots remain or become available after the application deadline of August 10, 2024 and selection date of August 14, 2024, they will be made available for day-of sign-up on a first-come, first-serve basis on-site at Park 578 during the Speaker's Platform Operating Hours.

### **12. Non-Transferability**

Time slots awarded are non-transferrable. If an Applicant applies as an individual, only that person may use the Speaker's Platform during the awarded time slot. If an Applicant is an organization, only members of that organization may be Speakers and use the Speaker's Platform during the awarded time slot. If an Applicant applies on behalf of a group of individuals, only those individuals who are listed on the application may use the Speaker's Platform during the awarded time slot.

## **PART D: USE OF PLATFORM**

### **13. Check-In**

Speakers must present a copy of their time slot approval notification to the authorized City representative from the Department of Fleet and Facilities Management at the Speaker's Platform at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of their scheduled time slot. Speakers who fail to check-in at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of their authorized time slot will relinquish their scheduled time slot.

### **14. Time Restriction**

Speakers may only use the Speaker's Platform within their designated time slot. When a speaker's time expires, participants must relinquish the Speaker's Platform and sound amplification equipment.

### **15. Stage Capacity**

Speakers must abide by weight capacity and safety restrictions limiting the number of individuals allowed on stage at a given time. Members of an organization or group of individuals may rotate on and off the stage during the organization's or group's designated time slot if needed to maintain compliance with capacity limits.

### **16. Equipment**

All microphones and sound amplification equipment used for the Speaker's Platform will be provided by the City. No speaker may use his or her own microphone or sound amplification equipment.

### **17. Accessibility Services**

The City of Chicago provides accessible programs and services so that anyone can participate, including people with disabilities. To request accessibility services in connection with the Speaker's Platform, please send an email to [access@cityofchicago.org](mailto:access@cityofchicago.org). Advance notice may be required to arrange for accessibility needs.

Issued and approved on: August 2, 2024

Signed 

Commissioner Tom Carney