## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 121 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL in Room 1103 Regular Meeting, 1:00 PM February 11, 2025

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### I. ROLL CALL

The Community Development Commission (CDC) Chairperson Hatten-Butler called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and then undertook a call of the roll to establish the presence of a quorum.

#### Present (8)

Gwendolyn Hatten-Butler, Chair Latasha Thomas, Vice Chair Ciere Boatright, DPD Commissioner Leslie Davis Jacqueline Gomez Terrance Johnson Ronald Milsap John Zayas

#### Absent (3)

Grace Chan-McKibben, Secretary Dwight Curtis Cornelius Griggs

A court reporter was also present to record the proceedings, and members of the public were allowed to participate in the live meeting.

The CDC provided an opportunity for members of the public to submit written statements up to twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting through the CDC email; written public statements are kept on file with the Department of Planning and Development.

#### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2025 MEETING

Chair Hatten-Butler moved passage of this item by the same roll call vote previously used to establish quorum.

#### Approved 8-0-0

Yay: Hatten-Butler, Thomas, Boatright, Davis, Gomez, Johnson, Milsap, Zayas

No: None Abstain: None

#### III. NEW BUSINESS

# A. LASALLE/CENTRAL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA (WARD 34)

Request for the Commission to grant authority to the Department of Planning and Development to negotiate a redevelopment agreement with 548 Development, LLC for the redevelopment of the property located at 8840-8854 S. Commercial Avenue in the Commercial Avenue Redevelopment Project Area, and for the Commission to grant authority for the Department of Planning and Development to negotiate a land sale agreement with 548 Development, LLC for the disposition of the property located at 8840-8854 S. Commercial Avenue within the Commercial Avenue Redevelopment Project Area, and for the Commission to recommend to the City Council the designation of 548 Development, LLC as Developer.

Erika Sellke 25-CDC-02

Chair Hatten-Butler moved passage of this item by the same roll call vote previously used to establish quorum.

### Approved 8-0-0

Yay: Hatten-Butler, Thomas, Boatright, Davis, Gomez, Johnson, Milsap, Zayas

No: None Abstain: None

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hatten-Butler moved to adjourn by the same roll call vote previously used to establish quorum.

Meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

1	MEETING
2	OF THE
3	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
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10	City Hall - Council Chambers
11	121 North LaSalle Street Chicago, Illinois
12	Tuesday, February 11, 2025
13	1:00 o'clock p.m.
14	
15	PRESENT:
16	GWENDOLYN HATTEN BUTLER, CHAIRWOMAN
17	LATASHA THOMAS, VICE CHAIR CIERE BOATRIGHT
18	LESLIE DAVIS JACQUELINE GOMEZ
19	TERRENCE JOHNSON RONALD MILSAP
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21	
22	
23	Reported by: Nick D. Bowen
24	

Page 2 Page 4 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Good afternoon, and 1 requests approval of the minutes from our previous 2 welcome to the February 11, 2025 regular meeting of 2 meeting held on January 14, 2025. The Commissioners 3 have had an opportunity to review the minutes. And 3 the Community Development Commission of Chicago. I am Gwendolyn Hatten Butler, 4 if there are no corrections, I move passage of this 5 Chairwoman of the CDC. 5 item by the same roll call vote previously used to Today's meeting is being held at 6 establish quorum. 6 7 Are there any corrections or 7 City Hall, Council Chambers, and is also being 8 streamed by the Department of Planning and 8 objections? 9 Development. 9 (No response.) Hearing no corrections or 10 The agenda for today's meeting was 10 11 posted on February 6, 2025 both on the CDC website 11 objections, the motion is approved. 12 12 and physically at City Hall. And let the record show that DPD 13 Commissioner Boatright has joined us. 13 I will now call to order the 14 14 February 11, 2025 meeting of the Community Commissioners, for the first and 15 Development Commission with a call of the roll. 15 only item of new business on today's agenda, the 16 16 Department of Planning and Development is Commissioners, when your name is 17 called, please respond by saying "present." Please 17 requesting the Commission to grant authority to the 18 Department of Planning and Development to negotiate 18 note this vote will be used to establish the roll 19 call for subsequent items. 19 a redevelopment agreement with 548 Development, LLC 20 Vice Chair Latasha Thomas. 20 for the redevelopment of the property located at 21 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: Present. 21 8840 through 8854 South Commercial Avenue in the 22 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Secretary Grace Chan 22 Commercial Avenue Redevelopment Project Area, and 23 McKibben. 23 for the Commission to grant authority for the 24 (No response.) 24 Department of Planning and Development to negotiate Page 3 1 DPD Commissioner Ciere Boatright. 1 a land sale agreement with 548 Development, LLC for 2 (No response.) 2 the disposition of the property located at 8840 3 Commissioner Robert Buford. 3 through 8854 South Commercial Avenue within the 4 (No response.) 4 Commercial Avenue Redevelopment Project Area, and 5 Commissioner Dwight Curtis. 5 for the Commission to recommend to the City Council 6 (No response.) 6 the designation of 548 Development, LLC as 7 Commissioner Leslie Davis. 7 developer. 8 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Present. Erica Sellke will provide a brief 9 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Commissioner Jacqueline 9 description of this request on behalf of the 10 Gomez. 10 Department of Planning and Development. 11 COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Present. MS. SELLKE: Yes. Thank you. Good 12 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Commissioner Cornelius 12 afternoon. My name is Erica Sellke. I'm the lead 13 Griggs. 13 planner for the Far South Region with the 14 (No response.) 14 Department of Planning and Development. 15 Commissioner Terrence Johnson. 15 As mentioned, the project's located 16 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Present. 16 at 8840-8854 South Commercial Avenue. This is in CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Commissioner Ronald 17 17 the Commercial Avenue TIF District in the 10th 18 Milsap. 18 Ward, Alderman Chico's ward, in the South Chicago 19 COMMISSIONER MILSAP: Present. 19 community area. 20 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Commissioner John Zayas. 20 This is a context map. The site is 21 COMMISSIONER ZAYAS: Present. 21 located -- is outlined in red on the map there to 22 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Commissioners, thank 22 the corner of Commercial Avenue and 89th Street. 23 you. We have a quorum. 23 You can see the Chicago Skyway just to the west. 24 The first item on our agenda 24 And to the east you can see a portion of the

Page 9

Page 6

1 PsiQuantum site where the new PsiQuantum facility

- 2 will be developed. There are also two Metra
- 3 stations that serve the site just east.

4 You may remember, it's been quite a

- 5 while, in 2020 this project came before the CDC to
- 6 request authority to acquire the property -- to
- 7 acquire this property and then also to request
- 8 authority to advertise and issue an RFP for the
- 9 site. So we did issue that RFP. We did acquire
- 10 the properties. And after an evaluation process,
- 11 548 Development was selected. And this evaluation
- 12 process did include quite a bit of community
- 13 engagement and involvement.
- 14 This is closer look at the site
- 15 looking towards the west. You can see Commercial
- 16 Avenue and 89th Street. This is a close-up image
- 17 of the site. There are existing buildings. There
- 18 is a building at 8854, which is the one-story white
- 19 building that is currently owned by the developer.
- 20 Then there is a vacant lot that's owned by the
- 21 developer. Then there's a second vacant lot right
- 22 next to it -- they're both 25 feet wide -- which is
- 22 Hox to it they to both 20 foot wide which is
- 23 owned by the City. And then the City owns the two
- 24 buildings at the northern end of the site; a

Page 8 1 of the site. You could see some commercial uses in

- 2 there. And then if you look to the northern end of
- 3 the site, that is a public open space. There are
- 4 parking spaces off the alley to the east.
- And I will say that the site has a
- 6 pretty heavy grade to it going down to the alley,
- 7 so you can't see the parking spaces from the
- 8 street.
- 9 This is an elevation; approximately
- 10 six stories of glass and masonry. This is the
- 11 frontage along 89th Street.
- 12 Project budget. So these are some
- 13 of the numbers here. Again, I mentioned the TIF
- 14 funding at 18.3. Then there is some DPD CRP funds.
- 15 approximately 3.4 million. They are also seeking
- 16 funding from IHDA, LIHTC funding 4 percent money,
- 17 and then also a soft fund loan from IHDA as well.
- 18 And I will mention that the
- 19 community development consultant and the founder
- 20 and CEO of 548 are here, so we can delve further
- 21 into those numbers if there are more questions.
- 22 So as I mentioned, the lead
- 23 developer is 548 Development, A.J. Patton, and
- 24 Farr Associates is his architect, with Berglund

Page 7

- 1 two-story building and a three-story building.
- These are some exterior shots of the
- 3 buildings. Unfortunately, the three-story building4 we were hoping to retain and reuse; but having the
- 5 developer and contractor and everyone go through
- 6 the property, they just found issues that couldn't
- 7 be easily repaired and would essentially call for
- 8 rebuilding the entire building from the ground up
- 9 instead of rehabbing it.
- 10 So the project overview. The
- 11 project is called Galleria 89, and it's a new
- 12 construction, mixed-use project, which will provide
- 13 57 units of affordable housing from between 30
- 14 percent and 60 percent of the AMI, and about 3,000
- 15 square feet of ground floor commercial space.
- 16 There will also be a public plaza on the site -- on
- 17 the northern end of the site as well.
- 18 The funding request is approximately
- 19 \$18.3 million in TIF, and the total project cost is
- 20 a bit over \$46 million. It is anticipated that if
- 21 the appropriate approvals are granted, they could
- 22 begin construction this summer.
- This is a site plan of the proposal.
- 24 The building is in the dark gray at the bottom half

- 1 Construction, which is a South Chicago based
- 2 construction firm.
- 3 Public benefits. The new building
- 4 will include 57 affordable units. The community
- 5 advocated for deeper affordability. So doing 60
- 6 percent -- excuse me. 51 units are 60 percent AMI,
- 7 and 6 of the units are at 30 percent AMI.
- 8 The developer has a foundation that
- 9 does extensive workforce development, and they've
- 10 been actively involved with neighborhood
- 11 organizations setting up this workforce development
- 12 program to train neighborhood residents
- 13 particularly in terms of solar panel and other
- 14 green construction activities.
- 15 And then the project also aims to
- 16 acquire passive house certification.
- So finally, the request for the
- 18 Commission is to grant the authority for Department
- 19 of Planning and Development and Department of
- 20 Housing to negotiate a redevelopment agreement with
- 21 548, to recommend to the City Council the
- 22 designation of 548 Development as the developer,
- 23 and then approve such agreements and undertakings
- 24 in connection with the disposition of land to a

Page 12

Page 13

Page 10

- 1 private developer to redevelop the parcels.
- 2 And as I mentioned, Andy Geer, the
- 3 community development consultant, and A.J. Patton,
- 4 the founder and CEO of 548 Development, are both
- 5 here if there are questions. Thank you.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Thank you. Thank you,
- 7 Erica.
- 8 The Commissioners have been provided
- 9 a letter of support from Alderman Chico. If
- 10 present today, I would like to recognize Alderman
- 11 Chico, invite them to make a statement on the
- 12 project. Is the alderman here, anyone from their
- 13 office?
- 14 MS. SELLKE: I don't believe so. Not in
- 15 person, no.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Thank you.
- 17 Commissioners, do you have any
- 18 questions for the department regarding this
- 19 request?
- 20 Vice Chair Thomas.
- 21 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 22 Can you pull back the budget, the
- 23 project budget? Okay. What is the DPD funds, the
- 24 3.4?

- 1 MS. SELLKE: Yes.
- 2 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: So it is a private LLC
- 3 that will receive the TIF funding, correct?
- 4 MS. SELLKE: Yes.
- 5 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: Okay. Thank you, Madam
- 6 Chair.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Other questions from
- 8 members of the Commission?
- 9 COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: I have a question.
- 10 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Yes, please,
- 11 Commissioner Gomez.
- 12 COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: Just to -- kind of as a
- 13 follow-up. So I saw there was also training being
- 14 conducted. Is the LLC doing -- the private company
- 15 doing the training or --
- 16 MS. SELLKE: I'd like to invite A.J. to come
- 17 up, if you don't mind. Or can he speak from there?
- 18 I don't know if the microphone's on.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Yes, he can speak from
- 20 there.
- 21 MS. SELLKE: Okay.
- 22 COMMISSIONER GOMEZ: And then if you could
- 23 also just provide a -- you said there were various
- 24 subsidiaries. How is it all connected?

Page 11

- MS. SELLKE: So this is CRP funds which were
- 2 set aside in the last administration as part of the
- 3 INVEST South/West Initiative for multifamily
- 4 development. So this is sort of the end of that
- 5 bit of money.
- 6 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: INVEST South/West?
- 7 MS. SELLKE: Yeah.
- 8 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: Is that a grant?
- 9 MS. SELLKE: I'm not sure.
- 10 It's a grant, yes. Sorry. Thank
- 11 you.
- 12 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: Okay. And then the LLC
- 13 is a private company; it's not a not-for-profit,
- 14 right? Or is it not-for-profit.
- 15 MS. SELLKE: There's different subsidiaries,
- 16 but the development company is --
- 17 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: The LLC, that will be
- 18 for the TIF moneys?
- 19 MS. SELLKE: Right.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: I'm sorry. What was the
- 21 answer?
- 22 MS. SELLKE: Yes, it is a private company
- 23 that will receive the funding.
- 24 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: The TIF funding?

- 1 MS. SELLKE: Yeah. Sorry.
- 2 MR. PATTON: Yeah, Commissioner. Good
- 3 afternoon. Yes. So we have multiple entities --
- 4 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Please introduce
- 5 yourself for purposes of the record.
- 6 MR. PATTON: Yes, Madam Chair. My name's
- 7 A.J. Patton. I'm the founder of 548 Development.
- 8 I'm also the founder of the 548 Foundation, which
- 9 will also be a part of the partnership group that
- 10 will lead the development.
- So the foundation, as a part of our
- 12 investment in the community, will also lead work-
- 13 force development in the neighborhood so that local
- 14 folks will get first access to the jobs that are
- 15 created by the strategic investment. So the
- 16 foundation will be a part of the general
- 17 partnership and have an ownership stake in the
- 18 development.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Are there any additional
- 20 questions?
- 21 Yes, Commissioner Milsap.
- 22 COMMISSIONER MILSAP: A.J., you spoke to the
- 23 project being able to break construction this
- 24 summer. Can you talk about lending sources in

Page 14

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- 1 terms of the equity and the bank debt and the
- 2 viability of actually breaking ground this summer?
- 3 MR. PATTON: Yeah. Thank you, Commissioner.
- 4 Yeah. I mean, so we've got multiple --
- 5 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: For purposes of the
- 6 record, you have to introduce yourself every time 7 you speak.
- 8 MR. PATTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. My
- 9 name's A.J. Patton, CEO of 548 Development.
- 10 Yes. So we've got multiple bids for
- 11 the equity and the debt for the project. They're
- 12 really just kind of waiting on us to give them the
- 13 green light that we are moving through at a real
- 14 pace through the City process. I believe we'll
- 15 have permits for this project probably in the next
- 16 two or three weeks.
- 17 So we have done all that we have
- 18 done -- you know, we can do at this point in terms
- 19 of moving the project along in terms of extending
- 20 ourselves from an investment perspective. The
- 21 organization's put a lot of work and resources into
- 22 getting permit ready, and we will have a permit
- 23 probably before the end of this month, beginning of
- 24 next. And the banks are waiting on us to just say

- Page 16
- MR. PATTON: Yeah. Great question. So, you
- 2 know, this is a community that is very active. And
- 3 so, you know, we have been very transparent in
- 4 engaging with them and allowing them to really be a
- 5 part of the process. They frankly pressed us to
- 6 get more 30 percent units, 30 percent AMI units.
- 7 So historically there would not be this many. We
- 8 probably have double the amount that historically
- 9 is in a development of this scale. And so we -- in
- 10 addition to having more 30 percent AMI, they want
- 11 those folks to already be in the neighborhood. So
- 12 we'll do kind of a robust community engagement
- 13 process that will allow local folks to get first
- 14 round of applications in. We hired a property
- 15 management company that was from the South Side
- 16 specifically that had a great deal of experience in
- 17 South Side developing and management.
- 18 And so it was critical to us that --
- 19 to make sure local folks -- you know, this is the
- 20 first new construction development in the ward of
- 21 housing in, I believe, a generation or so. So
- 22 they're very, very, very excited about it. But
- 23 also they've been very engaged in all of the
- 24 details about this, including the leasing process.

Page 15

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- 1 when's the projected closing date so we can get2 started.
- 3 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Additional guestions?
- 4 COMMISSIONER MILSAP: No questions.
- 5 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: So as a follow-up
- 6 question, what's the timeline for breaking ground
- 7 on the development as well as delivery of the
- 8 units?
- 9 MR. PATTON: Yeah. My name is A.J. Patton of 10 548.
- 11 We will probably target a late April
- 12 or early May close. That's probably a bit
- 13 aggressive considering where we are with the
- 14 financial process. It's going to take 60 days to
- 15 close after we go through this remaining City
- 16 process. It will be a stereotypical 14- to
- 17 16-month construction timeline, which will land us
- 18 somewhere in the fall '26 delivery timeline. So
- 19 that will be kind of our projected timeline. So
- 20 start early summer, end the following fall.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Thank you. And just one
- 22 additional question from me. How do you screen
- 23 tenants for -- how will you screen tenants for this
- 24 development?

- Page 17 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Great. Thank you.
- 2 Commissioners, are there additional
- 3 questions or comments?
- 4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: I do.
- 5 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Commissioner Davis.
- 6 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Just to piggyback off of
- 7 the last question, I'm glad to hear that there's
- 8 going to a robust involvement of the community.
- 9 What other community partners in
- 10 that area are you working with knowing that now
- 11 that area, which has been blighted for so long, is
- 12 now the newest hot topic since there are, you know,
- 13 different -- since the Quantum site is going to be
- 14 coming? So just wanted to make sure that you're
- 15 being thoughtful about the other folks who are in
- 16 the community, who've been in that community and
- 17 been working in that community a long time and that
- 18 they're not kind of being leapfroaged over for
- 19 those who are newly trying to come into the
- 20 community for investment purposes.
- 21 MR. PATTON: Thank you, Commissioner.
- 22 My name's A.J. Patton.
- 23 You know, we have done -- because
- 24 I think you guys saw there, this is a project

Page 18 Page 20 1 that's -- we're probably four years in of the 1 (No response.) 2 community engagement process. We at one point had If there are no further questions or 3 done a community meeting every six weeks. So much 3 comments regarding the matter before us, I will now 4 so, I mean, we had done to the scale that they 4 call this item to a vote. 5 actually had to trim the community meetings down. 5 The resolution before us, the 6 When I say three, four years of community meetings, 6 Department of Planning and Development is seeking 7 this is where 60 and 70 people were still showing 7 the Commission to grant authority to the Department 8 up to these meetings two years into the design 8 of Planning and Development to negotiate a 9 process, a year into the bidding process, you know. 9 redevelopment agreement with 548 Development, LLC 10 Then we rebid the project because they demanded 10 for the redevelopment of the property located at 11 more units. They thought they were getting shorted 11 8840 through 8854 South Commercial Avenue in the 12 a little bit, and so we added a floor to this 12 Commercial Avenue Redevelopment Project Area, and 13 for the Commission to grant authority for the 13 development. 14 So we have met with not just the 14 Department of Planning and Development to negotiate 15 robust community and SSA and all of that, not to 15 a land sale agreement with 548 Development, LLC for 16 mention there's been aldermanic change in the ward. 16 the disposition of the property located at 8840 17 They then trimmed down the community groups so that 17 through 8854 South Commercial Avenue within the 18 we could be a bit more kind of nuts and bolts in 18 Commercial Avenue Redevelopment Project Area, and 19 those meetings. So those groups are very diverse 19 for the Commission to recommend to the City Council 20 communities. So you're talking about folks that 20 the designation of 548 Development, LLC as 21 developer. 21 represent all of those different groups from 22 Altgeld all the way to the different neighborhoods 22 If there are no objections, I move 23 around it. 23 passage of this item by the same roll call vote 24 24 previously used to establish quorum. Are there any So we've met with -- I can say this Page 19 Page 21 1 with confidence. We've met with every major 1 objections or abstentions? 2 2 community group several times. And they've been (No response.) 3 very hands-on in this project. 3 Hearing none, the motion is COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Does that include the 4 approved. 5 local churches as well? Commissioners, that was our last MR. PATTON: Oh, absolutely. Yeah. 6 item on today's agenda. If there are no further 7 Absolutely. 7 questions or comments, I move to adjourn the 8 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you. 8 February 11, 2025 meeting of the Community 9 MR. PATTON: Yes, ma'am. 9 Development Commission by the same roll call vote 10 CHAIRPERSON BUTLER: Additional questions or 10 previously used to establish quorum. 11 comments from members of the commission? 11 (No response.) 12 (No response.) 12 Hearing none, we are adjourned. 13 Thank you, Commissioners. 13 (The proceedings adjourned at 14 No written statements from the 14 1:21 p.m.) 15 public were submitted on this matter. 15 16 If there are no further questions or 16 17 comments from the Commission, I would now like to 17 18 invite members of the public who are in attendance 18 19 and interested to speak on this item. Each speaker 19 20 will be limited to three minutes and asked to keep 20 21 any statements relevant to the request before us. 21 22 If there are members of the public present who 22 23 would like to make a comment, please come to the 23

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24 mic at this time.

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	Page 22	
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2	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	
3	REPORTER S CERTIFICATE	
4	I, Nick D. Bowen, do hereby certify that	
	I reported in shorthand the proceedings of said	
	hearing as appears from my stenographic notes so	
7	taken and transcribed under my direction.	
8	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
9	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my	
10	hand and affixed my seal of office at Chicago,	
11	Illinois, this 19th day of February 2025.	
12		
13	$\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i$	
	Tick D. Bowen	
14	Illinois CSR No. 084-001661	
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<b>\$</b>	7	alderman 5:18 10:9,10,12
		aldermanic 18:16
<b>\$18.3</b> 7:19	<b>70</b> 18:7	alley 8:4,6
<b>\$46</b> 7:20	8	allowing 16:4
1		Altgeld 18:22
	<b>8840</b> 4:21 5:2 20:11,16	<b>AMI</b> 7:14 9:6,7 16:6,10
<b>10th</b> 5:17	<b>8840-8854</b> 5:16	amount 16:8
<b>11</b> 2:2,14 21:8	<b>8854</b> 4:21 5:3 6:18 20:11,17	Andy 10:2
<b>14</b> 4:2	<b>89</b> 7:11	anticipated 7:20
<b>14-</b> 15:16	<b>89th</b> 5:22 6:16 8:11	applications 16:14
<b>16-month</b> 15:17		approval 4:1
<b>18.3</b> 8:14	A	approvals 7:21
<b>1:21</b> 21:14	<b>A.J.</b> 8:23 10:3 12:16 13:7,22 14:9	approve 9:23
	15:9 17:22	approved 4:11 21:4
2	absolutely 19:6,7	approximately 7:18 8:9,15
<b>2020</b> 6:5	abstentions 21:1	<b>April</b> 15:11
<b>2025</b> 2:2,11,14 4:2 21:8	access 13:14	architect 8:24
<b>25</b> 6:22	acquire 6:6,7,9 9:16	<b>area</b> 4:22 5:4,19 17:10,11 20:12,18
<b>26</b> 15:18	active 16:2	Associates 8:24
	actively 9:10	attendance 19:18
3	activities 9:14	authority 4:17,23 6:6,8 9:18 20:7,
2 000 7:44	added 18:12	13
<b>3,000</b> 7:14	addition 16:10	<b>Avenue</b> 4:21,22 5:3,4,16,17,22 6:16 20:11,12,17,18
<b>3.4</b> 8:15 10:24	additional 13:19 15:3,22 17:2	
<b>30</b> 7:13 9:7 16:6,10	19:10	В
4	adjourn 21:7	<b>back</b> 10:22
	adjourned 21:12,13	bank 14:1
<b>4</b> 8:16	administration 11:2	banks 14:24
5	advertise 6:8	
	advocated 9:5	based 9:1
<b>51</b> 9:6	affordability 9:5	begin 7:22
<b>548</b> 4:19 5:1,6 6:11 8:20,23 9:21,22	affordable 7:13 9:4	beginning 14:23
10:4 13:7,8 14:9 15:10 20:9,15,20	<b>afternoon</b> 2:1 5:12 13:3	behalf 5:9
<b>57</b> 7:13 9:4	agenda 2:10 3:24 4:15 21:6	benefits 9:3
6	aggressive 15:13	Berglund 8:24
	<b>agreement</b> 4:19 5:1 9:20 20:9,15	bidding 18:9
<b>6</b> 2:11 9:7	agreements 9:23	<b>bids</b> 14:10
<b>60</b> 7:14 9:5,6 15:14 18:7	<b>aims</b> 9:15	<b>bit</b> 6:12 7:20 11:5 15:12 18:12,18

engaging 16:4

blighted 17:11 date 15:1 closing 15:1 **Boatright** 3:1 4:13 comment 19:23 **Davis** 3:7,8 17:4,5,6 19:4,8 **bolts** 18:18 comments 17:3 19:11,17 20:3 days 15:14 21:7 bottom 7:24 deal 16:16 commercial 4:21,22 5:3,4,16,17, break 13:23 debt 14:1,11 22 6:15 7:15 8:1 20:11,12,17,18 breaking 14:2 15:6 deeper 9:5 **commission** 2:3,15 4:17,23 5:5 9:18 12:8 19:11,17 20:7,13,19 21:9 budget 8:12 10:22,23 **delivery** 15:7,18 **Buford** 3:3 Commissioner 2:21 3:1,3,5,7,8,9, delve 8:20 11,12,15,16,17,19,20,21 4:13 **building** 6:18,19 7:1,3,8,24 9:3 demanded 18:10 10:21 11:6,8,12,17,24 12:2,5,9,11, 12,22 13:2,21,22 14:3 15:4 17:4,5, **buildings** 6:17,24 7:3 **department** 2:8 4:16,18,24 5:10, 6,21 19:4,8 14 9:18,19 10:18 20:6,7,14 business 4:15 **Commissioners** 2:16 3:22 4:2,14 description 5:9 **Butler** 2:1,4,22 3:9,12,17,20,22 10:8,17 17:2 19:13 21:5 10:6,16 11:20 12:7,10,19 13:4,19 design 18:8 communities 18:20 14:5 15:3,5,21 17:1,5 19:10 designation 5:6 9:22 20:20 **community** 2:3,14 5:19 6:12 8:19 details 16:24 9:4 10:3 13:12 16:2,12 17:8,9,16, C 17,20 18:2,3,5,6,15,17 19:2 21:8 developed 6:2 call 2:13,15,19 4:5 7:7 20:4,23 21:9 company 11:13,16,22 12:14 16:15 **developer** 5:7 6:19,21 7:5 8:23 9:8,22 10:1 20:21 called 2:17 7:11 conducted 12:14 developing 16:17 CDC 2:5.11 6:5 confidence 19:1 **development** 2:3,9,15 4:16,18,19, **CEO** 8:20 10:4 14:9 connected 12:24 24 5:1,6,10,14 6:11 8:19,23 9:9,11, certification 9:16 connection 9:24 19,22 10:3,4 11:4,16 13:7,10,13,18 14:9 15:7,24 16:9,20 18:13 20:6,8, **Chair** 2:20 10:20,21 12:6 13:6 14:8 construction 7:12,22 9:1,2,14 9,14,15,20 21:9 13:23 15:17 16:20 **CHAIRPERSON** 2:1,22 3:9,12,17, disposition 5:2 9:24 20:16 20,22 10:6,16 11:20 12:7,10,19 consultant 8:19 10:3 13:4,19 14:5 15:3,5,21 17:1,5 District 5:17 context 5:20 19:10 diverse 18:19 contractor 7:5 Chairwoman 2:5 **double** 16:8 Cornelius 3:12 Chambers 2:7 **DPD** 3:1 4:12 8:14 10:23 corner 5:22 Chan 2:22 Dwight 3:5 correct 12:3 **change** 18:16 corrections 4:4,7,10 Chicago 2:3 5:18,23 9:1 Ε cost 7:19 Chico 10:9,11 **early** 15:12,20 Council 2:7 5:5 9:21 20:19 Chico's 5:18 easily 7:7 created 13:15 churches 19:5 east 5:24 6:3 8:4 critical 16:18 Ciere 3:1 elevation 8:9 CRP 8:14 11:1 City 2:7,12 5:5 6:23 9:21 14:14 15:15 20:19 end 6:24 7:17 8:2 11:4 14:23 15:20 Curtis 3:5 close 15:12.15 engaged 16:23 D engagement 6:13 16:12 18:2 close-up 6:16

dark 7:24

closer 6:14

entire 7:8 **house** 9:16 G entities 13:3 housing 7:13 9:20 16:21 **equity** 14:1,11 Galleria 7:11 ı **Erica** 5:8,12 10:7 Geer 10:2 essentially 7:7 general 13:16 **IHDA** 8:16,17 establish 2:18 4:6 20:24 21:10 generation 16:21 **image** 6:16 evaluation 6:10,11 include 6:12 9:4 19:4 **give** 14:12 excited 16:22 **glad** 17:7 including 16:24 excuse 9:6 **glass** 8:10 **Initiative** 11:3 existing 6:17 Gomez 3:10,11 12:9,11,12,22 interested 19:19 experience 16:16 **Good** 2:1 5:11 13:2 introduce 13:4 14:6 extending 14:19 Grace 2:22 **INVEST** 11:3.6 extensive 9:9 grade 8:6 investment 13:12.15 14:20 17:20 exterior 7:2 **grant** 4:17,23 9:18 11:8,10 20:7,13 invite 10:11 12:16 19:18 granted 7:21 involved 9:10 F gray 7:24 involvement 6:13 17:8 facility 6:1 **issue** 6:8,9 great 16:1,16 17:1 **fall** 15:18,20 issues 7:6 green 9:14 14:13 **Farr** 8:24 Griggs 3:13 item 3:24 4:5,15 19:19 20:4,23 21:6 **February** 2:2,11,14 21:8 ground 7:8,15 14:2 15:6 **items** 2:19 feet 6:22 7:15 group 13:9 19:2 finally 9:17 groups 18:17,19,21 J financial 15:14 guys 17:24 Jacqueline 3:9 firm 9:2 Gwendolyn 2:4 January 4:2 **floor** 7:15 18:12 Н **jobs** 13:14 **folks** 13:14 16:11,13,19 17:15 18:20 John 3:20 half 7:24 follow-up 12:13 15:5 **Johnson** 3:15.16 **Hall** 2:7.12 force 13:13 **joined** 4:13 hands-on 19:3 found 7:6 Hatten 2:4 Κ foundation 9:8 13:8.11.16 hear 17:7 founder 8:19 10:4 13:7,8 **kind** 12:12 14:12 15:19 16:12 **Hearing** 4:10 21:3,12 17:18 18:18 frankly 16:5 heavy 8:6 **knowing** 17:10 frontage 8:11 **held** 2:6 4:2 **fund** 8:17 hired 16:14 L **funding** 7:18 8:14,16 11:23,24 historically 16:7,8 12:3 land 5:1 9:24 15:17 20:15 hoping 7:4 funds 8:14 10:23 11:1 Latasha 2:20 **hot** 17:12

late 15:11 mind 12:17 ownership 13:17 lead 5:12 8:22 13:10,12 minutes 4:1,3 19:20 owns 6:23 leapfrogged 17:18 mixed-use 7:12 Ρ leasing 16:24 money 8:16 11:5 lending 13:24 moneys 11:18 **p.m.** 21:14 Leslie 3:7 month 14:23 **pace** 14:14 **letter** 10:9 motion 4:11 21:3 **panel** 9:13 move 4:4 20:22 21:7 **light** 14:13 parcels 10:1 **LIHTC** 8:16 moving 14:13,19 parking 8:4,7 **limited** 19:20 multifamily 11:3 part 11:2 13:9,11,16 16:5 **LLC** 4:19 5:1,6 11:12,17 12:2,14 **multiple** 13:3 14:4,10 partners 17:9 20:9,15,20 partnership 13:9,17 loan 8:17 Ν passage 4:4 20:23 **local** 13:13 16:13,19 19:5 name's 13:6 14:9 17:22 passive 9:16 **located** 4:20 5:2,15,21 20:10,16 negotiate 4:18,24 9:20 20:8,14 Patton 8:23 10:3 13:2,6,7 14:3,8,9 long 17:11,17 15:9 16:1 17:21,22 19:6,9 neighborhood 9:10,12 13:13 **lot** 6:20,21 14:21 16:11 people 18:7 neighborhoods 18:22 percent 7:14 8:16 9:6,7 16:6,10 М **newest** 17:12 **permit** 14:22 Madam 10:21 12:5 13:6 14:8 newly 17:19 **permits** 14:15 **major** 19:1 northern 6:24 7:17 8:2 **person** 10:15 make 10:11 16:19 17:14 19:23 not-for-profit 11:13,14 perspective 14:20 management 16:15,17 **note** 2:18 physically 2:12 numbers 8:13,21 piggyback 17:6 map 5:20,21 masonry 8:10 **nuts** 18:18 **plan** 7:23 matter 19:15 20:3 planner 5:13 0 Mckibben 2:23 **Planning** 2:8 4:16,18,24 5:10,14 9:19 20:6,8,14 meeting 2:2,6,10,14 4:2 18:3 21:8 objections 4:8,11 20:22 21:1 **plaza** 7:16 meetings 18:5,6,8,19 **office** 10:13 **point** 14:18 18:2 members 12:8 19:11,18,22 one-story 6:18 portion 5:24 mention 8:18 18:16 **open** 8:3 posted 2:11 mentioned 5:15 8:13,22 10:2 opportunity 4:3 present 2:17,21 3:8,11,16,19,21 met 18:14,24 19:1 **order** 2:13 10:10 19:22 Metra 6:2 organization's 14:21 pressed 16:5 mic 19:24 organizations 9:11 pretty 8:6 microphone's 12:18 outlined 5:21 previous 4:1 million 7:19,20 8:15 overview 7:10 previously 4:5 20:24 21:10 Milsap 3:18,19 13:21,22 15:4 owned 6:19,20,23 **private** 10:1 11:13,22 12:2,14

MEETING, 02/11/2025 proceedings 21:13 process 6:10,12 14:14 15:14,16 16:5,13,24 18:2,9 program 9:12 **project** 4:22 5:4 6:5 7:10,11,12,19 8:12 9:15 10:12,23 13:23 14:11,15, 19 17:24 18:10 19:3 20:12.18 project's 5:15 projected 15:1,19 properties 6:10 property 4:20 5:2 6:6,7 7:6 16:14 20:10,16 proposal 7:23 provide 5:8 7:12 12:23 provided 10:8 Psiquantum 6:1 **public** 7:16 8:3 9:3 19:15,18,22 **pull** 10:22 purposes 13:5 14:5 17:20 put 14:21 Q

**Quantum** 17:13

question 12:9 15:6,22 16:1 17:7

**questions** 8:21 10:5,18 12:7 13:20 15:3,4 17:3 19:10,16 20:2 21:7

**quorum** 3:23 4:6 20:24 21:10

R

ready 14:22

**real** 14:13

rebid 18:10

rebuilding 7:8

receive 11:23 12:3

recognize 10:10

recommend 5:5 9:21 20:19

record 4:12 13:5 14:6

red 5:21

redevelop 10:1

redevelopment 4:19,20,22 5:4

9:20 20:9,10,12,18

Region 5:13

regular 2:2

rehabbing 7:9

relevant 19:21

remaining 15:15

remember 6:4

repaired 7:7

represent 18:21

request 5:9 6:6,7 7:18 9:17 10:19

19:21

requesting 4:17

requests 4:1

residents 9:12

resolution 20:5

resources 14:21

respond 2:17

response 2:24 3:2,4,6,14 4:9

19:12 20:1 21:2,11

retain 7:4

reuse 7:4

review 4:3

**RFP** 6:8,9

Robert 3:3

robust 16:12 17:8 18:15

roll 2:15,18 4:5 20:23 21:9

Ronald 3:17

round 16:14

S

**sale** 5:1 20:15

scale 16:9 18:4

screen 15:22,23

Secretary 2:22

seeking 8:15 20:6

selected 6:11

**Sellke** 5:8,11,12 10:14 11:1,7,9,15,

19,22 12:1,4,16,21 13:1

serve 6:3

**set** 11:2

setting 9:11

shorted 18:11

shots 7:2

**show** 4:12

showing 18:7

**Side** 16:15,17

**site** 5:20 6:1,3,9,14,17,24 7:16,17,

23 8:1,3,5 17:13

Skyway 5:23

**soft** 8:17

**solar** 9:13

sort 11:4

**sources** 13:24

**South** 4:21 5:3,13,16,18 9:1 16:15,

17 20:11,17

South/west 11:3,6

space 7:15 8:3

**spaces** 8:4,7

**speak** 12:17,19 14:7 19:19

speaker 19:19

specifically 16:16

**spoke** 13:22

square 7:15

**SSA** 18:15

**stake** 13:17

start 15:20

started 15:2

statement 10:11

**statements** 19:14,21

stations 6:3

stereotypical 15:16

stories 8:10

strategic 13:15

streamed 2:8

street 5:22 6:16 8:8,11

submitted 19:15

subsequent 2:19 viability 14:2 **subsidiaries** 11:15 12:24 Vice 2:20 10:20 **summer** 7:22 13:24 14:2 15:20 vote 2:18 4:5 20:4,23 21:9 support 10:9 W Т waiting 14:12,24 talk 13:24 wanted 17:14 ward 5:18 16:20 18:16 talking 18:20 target 15:11 website 2:11 **tenants** 15:23 weeks 14:16 18:3 **terms** 9:13 14:1,18,19 west 5:23 6:15 Terrence 3:15 **when's** 15:1 **Thomas** 2:20,21 10:20,21 11:6,8, **white** 6:18 12,17,24 12:2,5 who've 17:16 thought 18:11 wide 6:22 thoughtful 17:15 work 14:21 three-story 7:1,3 work- 13:12 **TIF** 5:17 7:19 8:13 11:18,24 12:3 workforce 9:9,11 time 14:6 17:17 19:24 working 17:10,17 timeline 15:6,17,18,19 written 19:14 times 19:2 Υ **today** 10:10 today's 2:6,10 4:15 21:6 year 18:9 topic 17:12 years 18:1,6,8 total 7:19 **train** 9:12 Ζ **training** 12:13,15 **Zayas** 3:20,21 transparent 16:3 **trim** 18:5 **trimmed** 18:17 two-story 7:1 U undertakings 9:23 units 7:13 9:4,6,7 15:8 16:6 18:11 ٧ vacant 6:20,21