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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT CREATES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL TO ENSURE
NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT ON THE 78 DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

*Community Engagement Effort Delivers on Mayor Lightfoot's Commitment to
Inclusive Neighborhood Development*

CHICAGO—Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, with support from Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez (25th) and developer Related Midwest, today announced the formation of a Community Advisory Council (CAC) that will serve as a conduit for community input as the \$7 billion “The 78” development project on the Near South Side moves forward.

Working with the developer and the local aldermen, the City is soliciting applications from community members to serve on the CAC. An application for CAC volunteers is available at www.chicago.gov/78.

“When I first entered office, I made a commitment to ensure that all major planning efforts, including large-scale development projects like The 78, will be met with robust and inclusive community engagement processes,” said Mayor Lightfoot. “The 78 Community Advisory Council will provide a transparent process for residents and other stakeholders to provide guidance, identify improvements, and maximize economic opportunities for the community and the city at large as design and construction gets underway.”

The 17-member CAC will consist of neighborhood representatives, community leaders, design professionals, and subject-matter experts appointed by Mayor Lightfoot and Ald. Sigcho-Lopez in consultation with neighboring aldermen and local stakeholders. The group will meet quarterly starting in early 2020, making recommendations ranging from public infrastructure design to traffic control and open space, among other issues.

The CAC’s recommendations will be made to Related Midwest and the Mayor’s Office on an advisory basis and implemented where possible throughout the duration of The 78’s anticipated 20-year construction timeline. A special charter for



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the CAC will provide a framework for the group's membership and meeting protocols.

"We understand the importance of community participation throughout the development process, which is why the Community Advisory Council presents an exciting opportunity to further our community dialogue," Related Midwest President Curt Bailey said. "We look forward to a deeper engagement with stakeholders that identifies the best uses of our approved planned development to meet community needs as we create Chicago's next great neighborhood together."

Encompassing 62 acres of vacant land along the South Branch of the Chicago River, The 78 is planned to include approximately 13 million square feet of new commercial, residential and institutional construction. The project is anticipated to generate 39,000 permanent and temporary jobs, 12 acres of open space, multiple infrastructure improvements including a new Red Line subway station at 15th Street, and a 20 percent affordable housing commitment.

Today's announcement builds on a number of milestones highlighting recent progress at The 78, including:

- The creation of HIRE360, an innovative, cross-industry partnership co-founded by Related Midwest to provide sustainable career opportunities for local residents, women- and minority-owned businesses, and supply-chain partners across Chicago. It will fulfill a 360-degree vision for community-connected employment within The 78.
- The completion of the second phase of the Wells-Wentworth connector, a new roadway being constructed through The 78 by the Chicago Department of Transportation between Roosevelt and Cermak roads. The third and final phase is expected to be completed in 2021.
- The development of a plan by the University of Illinois System for its Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), which will occupy approximately 500,000 square feet of research and educational space within The 78. DPI is an education and innovation center that will join Illinois' businesses, public-sector partners and research universities to close the new-economy workforce gap, expand the diversity of the talent pipeline, and elevate the state's research and development economy.

"For months we've used the community advisory council structure in the 25th Ward to oversee development proposals and it's become critical to responsible development," Ald. Sigcho-Lopez said. "I'm glad to see this model grow, as the city's



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new advisory council will help ensure the community’s voices are heard as construction gets underway.”

The City will simultaneously monitor The 78 for compliance with a comprehensive redevelopment agreement approved by City Council earlier this year that includes terms for minority- and women-owned business participation, affordable housing, and City financial assistance for public infrastructure improvements, among other provisions.

Since taking office, Mayor Lightfoot’s administration has taken steps to ensure all major development projects like The 78 and Lincoln Yards will be met with robust and inclusive community engagement processes. Earlier this year, the Lightfoot administration put forward new public engagement guidelines for large development projects. These guidelines, which are currently under consideration by the Chicago Plan Commission, would require new public engagement protocols for “Master Planned Development” projects that move forward on large development sites like the former Michael Reese hospital in Bronzeville, General Iron in Lincoln Park, and USX in South Chicago. The guidelines are expected to be adopted by Plan Commission in early 2020.

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