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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE TO SUPPORT, BOLSTER CHICAGO'S BIDS
FOR OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY**

Today, City Council unanimously approved a measure introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and 42 aldermen that would allow for the transfer of parcels of parkland to the City if the Washington or Jackson Park sites are chosen by the Barack Obama Foundation for the Obama Presidential Library.

"As I said yesterday at the Obama Presidential Library Unity breakfast, the Obama Library can be on the South side of Chicago, it can be on the West side of Chicago, but it cannot be on the upper West side of Manhattan," said Mayor Emanuel. "With the passage of this ordinance, we have ensured that the President and First Lady now have an easy decision to make to bring the Obama Library home to Chicago."

Earlier this year, the Foundation raised concerns about the proposals of both the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and the University of Chicago (U of C). The response from U of C requires the City's intervention.

The ordinance was drafted based on community feedback gathered at public meetings held by the Chicago Park District. The land will always remain in public control and will revert back to the Park District at the end of its use for the presidential library. The ordinance makes it clear that the footprint of the library is expected to cover less than five acres, with the remaining acreage to be maintained as parkland in the Olmsted tradition. It also states that a group of community and open space leaders will be appointed to identify land that can be converted to green space to make up for any land covered by the building and propose enhancements to the Olmsted park system.

The Park District passed the same agreement at its February 11 board meeting, and the Chicago Plan Commission also approved the agreement at a special meeting held on March 9.

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