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**CITY COUNCIL PASS TWO ORDINANCES THAT REPRESENT THE NEXT STEP FORWARD  
TO THE REALIZATION OF THE OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER**

*Ordinances establish the terms and conditions of the land use and authorize roadway  
vacations/dedications related to the Obama Presidential Center*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today announced that two ordinances have passed City Council that establish the terms and conditions of the land use and authorize roadway vacations related to the Obama Presidential Center (OPC).

“The reason the Obama Presidential Center is coming to Chicago is because we came together. Not as different communities, but as one city with a common purpose,” said Mayor Emanuel. “No other Presidential Center is as dedicated to not just commemorating and cataloguing the past, but catalyzing and creating leaders who will shape the future. The Obama Presidential Center is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Chicago to host a museum honoring the country’s first African-American president; create a cultural, recreational and educational asset for Chicago residents and magnet for visitors to our global city; and generate billions of dollars in economic impact.”

“We are excited to take another step toward building the Obama Presidential Center to honor the legacy of President and Mrs. Obama and invest in the community that has given President and Mrs. Obama so much,” said Obama Foundation CEO David Simas. “This project is rooted in the South Side, but we hope it will be a beacon of inspiration for all, a reminder to people from around this city and around the world that their potential is limitless.”

City Council has approved an ordinance introduced by the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) that contains a Master Agreement, Use Agreement and Environmental Agreement between the Obama Foundation and the City of Chicago.

The Master Agreement establishes conditions to the obligation of the city to enter into the Use Agreement, including that the city has completed the federal review process and that the Foundation has received funds or pledge commitments equaling or exceeding projected total hard construction costs.

In consideration for the Foundation’s commitment to build and maintain the OPC at the Foundation’s expense, the Use Agreement gives the Obama Foundation the right to occupy, use and maintain the land free of charge (with a nominal one-time \$10 fee) for the benefit of the public. Unlike other major museums located in Chicago parks which have the right to use park land free of

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charge in perpetuity, the OPC will have a 99 year term (any extension would require City Council approval) and will not receive tax-based operating or capital support. Upon completion of construction, the buildings and other improvements on the site will become the property of the city. The Foundation must comply with the Museum Act's free admission requirements. Parking fees must be consistent with the rates charged at the Museum of Science and Industry or in the North Garage adjacent to the Field Museum, and these fees may solely be used on OPC operations, maintenance and management or deposited into the endowment. The green space surrounding the OPC buildings will continue to be publicly accessible and open during Chicago Park District hours, and the Foundation is required to keep the buildings and surrounding open space in good condition and repair at no cost to the city. The Foundation may use a portion of the green space for a limited number of private events related to the Foundation's mission and programs or that are customary for support of other museums in the park, provided that public access within the green space is preserved to the greatest extent practicable during such events. All revenue generated at the OPC site must be used for operating and maintenance costs; political fundraisers are prohibited. The Foundation is obligated to pay prevailing wage rates during construction and comply with city residency and M/WBE requirements.

"This Use Agreement demonstrates our commitment to working in partnership with the City of Chicago to create an Obama Presidential Center that belongs to and is for the benefit of the people of Chicago," said Robbin Cohen, Executive Director of the Foundation. "We look forward to building a Center that revitalizes and reconnects Jackson Park and puts a global spotlight on the South Side."

"Chicago has a long history of establishing museums in its parks for the benefit of its residents, and the Obama Presidential Center, with its museum honoring the legacy of Chicago's first president and the country's first African-American president, is a project that will offer enormous public benefits," said DPD Commissioner David Reifman. "With this agreement in place pending the approval of City Council, the OPC is poised to become a community asset that will serve as a catalyst for area economic development."

Among other things, the Environmental Agreement requires the Foundation to perform an environmental investigation of the OPC site and remediate contamination exceeding residential remediation standards. The city is required to reimburse the Foundation for any incremental remediation costs.

The DPD ordinance also authorizes an amendment to the 2015 Intergovernmental Agreement between the city and the Chicago Park District that provided for the transfer of land in Jackson Park or Washington Park to the city for subsequent use by the Obama Foundation for the construction, operation and maintenance of the OPC. Since the passage of that ordinance, following subsequent in-depth consideration by the Obama Foundation, city departments and the community, the site boundaries within Jackson Park have been adjusted to the north and east. The amendment authorizes the city to acquire the title from the Park District to the reconfigured site in Jackson Park, which is approximately the same size as the original site (19.3 acres and 20 acres, respectively).

Next, City Council passed an ordinance introduced by the Chicago Department of Transportation that facilitates the vacation of existing dedicated public right-of-way on Cornell Drive from North Midway Plaisance to approximately 62<sup>nd</sup> Street and South Midway Plaisance from Stony Island

Avenue to Cornell Drive. The ordinance conveys the land to the City of Chicago; this vacated land will be part of the OPC site. It also facilitates the dedication of existing Chicago Park District land on Stony Island from North Midway Plaisance to 62<sup>nd</sup> Street and North Midway Plaisance from Stony Island Avenue to Cornell Drive to public right-of-way, which is needed to complete portions of the transportation improvements adjacent to the OPC site. Cornell Drive will remain open to traffic until the surrounding transportation improvements on Lake Shore Drive, Hayes Drive and Stony Island are substantially complete. The overall transportation plan in Jackson Park will accommodate the traffic resulting from the roadway closures and provide improved safety and mobility for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.

“This ordinance reflects the transportation improvements we’ve been discussing with the Foundation, the community and city departments over the past year,” said CDOT Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld. “The roadway vacations and dedications lay the groundwork that will allow us to enhance Jackson Park’s accessibility and improve the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers.”

In May of 2018, the Chicago Plan Commission and Chicago City Council approved the 19.3 acre site on the 5900-6200 blocks of South Stony Island Avenue along the western edge of Jackson Park for construction. Today’s ordinance introduction follows three years of work that began in 2015 when the Foundation selected Chicago to be the home of the OPC. Since that time, the Emanuel Administration and Foundation staff, in coordination with DPD, CDOT, the Chicago Department of Law and the Chicago Park District worked on the plans with Alderman Leslie Hairston; local community groups and stakeholders; and state and federal officials.

Federal reviews are currently underway under NEPA and Section 106 for the UPARR conversion and funding under the Federal-Aid Highway Act for roadway improvements in Jackson Park.

The Foundation is expected to break ground for the OPC next year.

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