



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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**CITY ACQUISITION OF PILSEN SITE WOULD ENSURE ITS REDEVELOPMENT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The City of Chicago would acquire 6.3 acres of vacant land in the Pilsen neighborhood and make it available for affordable, mixed-use redevelopment through a proposal submitted to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

Comprised of former industrial land on the 1600 and 1700 blocks of South Peoria Street, the property would be purchased for \$12 million from PMG Investments LLC. In conjunction with the purchase, the Chicago Department of Housing (DOH) would initiate community engagement activities to solicit stakeholder input on a future Request for Proposals (RFP) for one or more mixed-use projects that could include more than 280 affordable housing units.

The purchase agreement was negotiated with PMG in 2021 by multiple City departments through Mayor Lightfoot's commitments to affordable housing and the equitable use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues. Land acquisition costs would be paid for with funds from the Pilsen Industrial Corridor TIF district.

Consisting of 28 individual lots, the site is a nexus of community concerns about gentrification, displacement and the potential impact of hundreds of new residential units being built. In 2015, PMG proposed a 500-unit, mixed-use building on the property that was prevented from moving forward by a 2016 zoning change.

Environmental cleanup to enable a future residential project on the site is estimated to cost up to \$1.5 million, which would be paid for by DOH after its acquisition by the City.

Community engagement efforts would start later this year to determine a community vision for the RFP, including design, unit sizes, rental rates and public amenities, including direct connections to the long-planned El Paseo promenade.

"This is the first step in turning the single largest grouping of vacant land in Pilsen into a vibrant development that will provide much-needed affordable housing in a community that has lost more than a quarter of its Latino population," DOH Commissioner Marisa Novara said. "We look forward



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to the next steps, including how this land can serve its long-term residents and the surrounding neighborhood."

The acquisition could be completed early this year. Cleanup work is expected to conclude by the end of 2022.

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### **DPD SEEKS AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE WEST GARFIELD PARK ALDI SITE**

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) would have the authority to purchase a former grocery building in West Garfield Park to foster its reuse for food sales through a proposal submitted to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

DPD would purchase the property if the current owner's efforts to sell the building do not result in its re-use as a grocery store. In that event, DPD could intervene through its authority to purchase and control the site for a grocery store or related use that serves community needs.

Located at 3811-41 W. Madison St., the 15,050-square-foot building was constructed by Aldi Grocery Stores in the early 1990s and includes an adjacent, 63-space parking lot. Aldi abruptly closed the store in October 2021 and is marketing it for sale for \$700,000.

The store's closure eliminated a convenient source of food for approximately 15,000 residents while also creating a void within the Madison Street commercial corridor.

DPD's potential efforts to locate a new grocery could be solicited through a community-driven Request for Proposals (RFP) process or related effort. Acquisition funding would be provided through the Madison/Austin Tax Increment Financing district.

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### **CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR \$10.7 MILLION IN TIF FUNDING**

The Chicago Park District would complete seven park improvement projects through more than \$10.7 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

- Clarendon Park, at 4501 N. Clarendon Ave. in Uptown, would receive \$3.46 million toward a \$13 million fieldhouse rehabilitation. The balance of project costs would be funded through previously approved public and private sources.
- Wilson Park, at 4630 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Portage Park, would receive \$3.05 million from the Jefferson Park TIF for fieldhouse renovations and other upgrades, including lighting,



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playground rehabilitation and ballfield drainage improvements. The project would be entirely funded by TIF.

- Jefferson Park, at 4822 N. Long Ave. in Jefferson Park, would receive \$2.275 million from the Jefferson Park TIF for fieldhouse and pool house renovations and other upgrades, including lighting, playground rehabilitation and ballfield drainage improvements. The project would be entirely funded by TIF.
- Burnside Park, at 9400 S. Greenwood Ave. in Burnside, would receive \$800,000 from the Stony Island/Burnside TIF for the construction of a new comfort station, spray feature renovation and other improvements including ballfield and basketball court restoration. The project would be entirely funded by TIF.
- Fernwood Park, at 10436 S. Wallace St. in Roseland, would receive \$650,000 from the 105th/Vincennes TIF for field house stabilization and mechanical improvements. The project would be entirely funded by TIF.
- Metcalfe Park, at 4134 S. State St. in Grand Boulevard, would receive \$350,000 from the 47th/Halsted TIF for comfort station renovations and additional site work. The project would be entirely funded by TIF.
- Bickerdike Square Park, at 1461 W. Ohio St. in West Town, would receive \$135,000 from the Kenzie Industrial TIF to establish a water connection for garden bed maintenance and to improve lighting, garden fencing and signage. The project would be entirely funded by TIF.

Chicago's TIF program allocates property tax growth within designated TIF districts for public improvement projects, affordable housing, economic development and other goals.

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### **TAX INCENTIVE WOULD SUPPORT UPGRADES TO BRIGHTON PARK STEEL FACILITY**

A property tax incentive introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot would enable a long-time Brighton Park steel facility to upgrade its processing plant.

Siegal Steel would use the Cook County Class 6(b) property tax incentive to invest \$2.8 million in its facility on the 4700 and 4800 block of South Kedzie Avenue, where it has manufactured metal components for lawnmowers, harvesting equipment, and other products for more than 60 years.

The incentive would reduce property taxes on the site by approximately \$540,110 over the term of the 12-year incentive period.

The incentive would help preserve the company's 49 full-time workers.

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