



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ENHANCE ZONING
TRANSPARENCY AND CONSISTENCY**

The executive order will make four components of zoning reform procedural in an effort to enhance transparency and procedural consistency in zoning administration and champion successful urban development

CHICAGO — Today, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot signed an Executive Order that will enhance transparency and consistency and improve informed decision-making regarding the City's zoning code. The Executive Order also requires projects to move forward within their timelines, as required by the Municipal Code.

"It is essential that we reform the City's zoning administration and make it more accessible to the public and consistent if we want to propel more successful developments forward," said Mayor Lightfoot. "This ordinance aims to uplift the work done by the Office of the Zoning Administrator and help address dormant zoning proposals to better inform land use and zoning decisions."

This Order requires the Office of the Zoning Administrator to publish its recommendations online for proposed text amendments, map amendments, special character overlay district amendments, planned developments, and planned manufacturing districts, prior to public hearings on any of these proposals. The Zoning Administrator will also promote rules and procedures relating to text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and proposed Planned Developments.

Furthermore, specifically in the case of aldermanic zoning map amendments which propose to diminish development rights, the Office of the Zoning Administrator must investigate those details and include relevant conclusions as a part of the application recommendation.

Additionally, in the case of expired zoning map amendments and planned developments, the Office of the Zoning Administrator will work with City Council to restore the applicable prior zoning status. Zoning map amendment applicants must also provide written information to support the requirement that a proposed map amendment be consistent and compatible with the area.



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The improvements to the zoning process that this Order mandates utilize the expertise and resources of the Office of the Zoning Administrator, enabling that official to obtain as much informed guidance as possible regarding plans and development options for various parcels within the City in order to enact optimal responsible zoning legislation.

This Order will also further the goals of the We Will Chicago Plan, including improved health, economic stability, and neighborhood livability. The We Will Chicago Plan is a citywide framework to enhance equity and resiliency and expand engagement to inform land use and zoning decisions, amongst other priorities. In large cities like Chicago, cohesive citywide plans are essential to identify needs, guide long-term growth and sustainability, inform land use and zoning decisions, and prioritize the allocation of resources.

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