

October 28, 2019

The Honorable Mayor Lori Lightfoot  
121 N. LaSalle St.  
Chicago City Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mayor Lightfoot,

We, the undersigned members of the Illinois General Assembly, are writing to communicate our support for the Bring Chicago Home Coalition's efforts to create a dedicated revenue stream to address homelessness at a significant scale. With over 86,000 Chicago residents experiencing homelessness, we must take the opportunity that we have right now to meaningfully fund solutions to this egregious problem.

Our goal is to provide permanent supportive housing in Chicago to people experiencing homelessness:

- More than 17,000 children experience homelessness, with 1 in 4 children struggling to stay in school in the City of Chicago. Four out of 5 people experiencing homelessness are African American or Latino.
- The City of Chicago spends 5% of what New York City spends per capita and 3% of what Los Angeles spends per capita on homeless prevention.
- New York City is spending \$1.04 billion on efforts to end homelessness.
- Los Angeles spends \$580.8 million on efforts to end homelessness.
- Chicago currently spends \$15.5 Million.
- Your budget allocates an additional \$5 million for homelessness services for youth, still a fraction of what other major cities are investing in ending homelessness.

To provide permanent supportive housing to end homelessness for all the households currently experiencing homelessness in Chicago would cost close to \$1 billion, while your budget only allocates an additional \$5 million. We know that providing permanent housing saves the state money. An Illinois study found that providing 177 people with permanent supportive housing saved the state \$855,477 in costs for prisons, nursing homes, and mental healthcare, a 39% cost savings. Chicago ranks near the bottom of many cities across the country in the amount of resources that we commit to combatting homelessness, and the time to start to rectify this problem is now.

It is our intention to strongly consider your proposed Real Estate Transfer Tax increase. We request that you commit, in statute, a significant and dedicated revenue stream to address homelessness in the eventual ordinance.

To that end, it is our intention to support your proposed Real Estate Transfer Tax increase only if a significant amount is statutorily dedicated to homelessness, and we believe that at least 60% should go toward that purpose. We also encourage you to meet with the Bring Chicago Home Coalition as soon as possible to work out the details of the legislation.

We acknowledge that Chicago faces a budget shortfall which must be addressed. This division of resources is a compromise that helps to solve both pressing matters. In addition, there are other progressive revenue options currently on the table that could close the budget gap.

We hope to collaborate with you to generate this much-needed revenue in order to create a more equitable Chicago and to ensure that you keep your campaign promise of working to end homelessness in the City of Chicago.

Sincerely,

Will I  
~~Christy Williams~~  
Will I

M.E. O'R.

J.A.  
Reynold L. Loh

Sharon  
Paula

John

Angela  
Linda  
Diana  
Diana