



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Landmark Status Proposed for Near North Side Multiple Property District**

Fifteen Near North Side residential buildings constructed shortly after the Great Chicago Fire would be preserved as an official Chicago Landmark District under a proposal submitted to City Council today.

The proposed Near North Side Multiple Property District includes a noncontiguous group of single-family homes, row houses, and apartment buildings that represent the early redevelopment of the Near North Side after it was largely decimated by fire in 1871.

Generally bounded by Chicago Avenue, La Salle Drive, Grand Avenue and Fairbanks Court, the properties are among the area's last examples of post-fire construction that haven't been replaced by new construction or parking lots.

The buildings represent Italianate designs, as well as Second Empire, Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and Colonial Revival styles. Their architects include Treat and Foltz, which designed a range of high-quality homes, factories and schools; Burling & Whitehouse, which designed many post-fire buildings; and prolific architect Henry Ives Cobb, who also occupied one of the structures as his personal residence.

Individual property addresses include:

- 642 N. Dearborn St.
- 17 E. Erie St.
- 14 W. Erie St.
- 110 W. Grand Ave.
- 671 N. State St.
- 1 E. Huron St.
- 9 E. Huron St.
- 10 E. Huron St.



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- 16 W. Ontario St.
- 18 W. Ontario St.
- 212 E. Ontario St.
- 222 E. Ontario St.
- 716 N. Rush St.
- 42 E. Superior St.
- 44 and 46 E. Superior St

The district received a final recommendation for landmark status by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in February 2020. The designation would protect the exterior elevations of all the buildings from significant alteration or demolition.

# # #

### **Romanesque Church in Bronzeville Proposed for Landmark Status**

The 134-year-old Blackwell-Israel Samuel A.M.E. Zion Church building in Grand Boulevard would be designated an official Chicago landmark under a Commission on Chicago Landmarks recommendation submitted to City Council today.

Designed by prominent architectural firm of Edbrooke and Burnham, the Romanesque Revival-style building at 3956 S. Langley Ave. was originally home to the Oakland Methodist Episcopal Church before housing the current congregation in 1929. Its exterior features a rusticated limestone facade and a towering pyramidal roof with projecting gables, and arched openings at the windows, doors, portico, and belfry.

The building played a continuous role as a cultural, educational, and social hub for the area's African-American community, hosting national organizations, clubs, lectures, conferences, and civil rights gatherings. Users included the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Conference and National Council, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The property received a final recommendation for landmark status by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in February 2020.

The landmark designation would protect all exterior elevations, the sanctuary, and entrance vestibule from significant alteration or demolition.

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## **TIF Proposed for Three North Side School Improvement Projects**

Three North Side elementary schools would be improved through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposals introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

- Northwest Middle School at 5252 W. Palmer St. in Belmont Cragin would receive \$750,000 in TIF for the stabilization of a deteriorating chimney.
- Peter A. Reinberg Elementary School at 3425 N. Major Ave. in Portage Park would receive \$400,000 in TIF to install a new synthetic surface on an existing recreation field.
- Lyman A. Budlong Elementary School at 2701 W. Foster Ave. in Lincoln Square would receive \$300,000 in TIF to install a new synthetic surface on an existing recreation field.

The TIF assistance would reimburse Chicago Public Schools for the entire cost of all three projects. Construction could start next year,

# # #

## **TIF Assistance Proposed for Park Improvement Projects**

Field houses at four North Side parks would be improved through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance proposed to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

**Clarendon Community Center Park**, 4501 N. Clarendon Ave.

TIF in the amount of \$6.9 million would support renovations to Clarendon Park field house in Uptown. Improvements would include concrete and masonry restoration, new interior finishes, new plumbing, mechanical, and electrical systems, and ADA-access upgrades. The balance of the \$13 million project would be financed with \$4.6 million from Montrose Clarendon Partners LLC, which developed the nearby 811 Uptown apartment complex, and \$1.6 million from the Chicago Park District.

**Avondale Park**, 3516 W. School St.

TIF in the amount of \$2.9 million would support renovations to the Avondale Park field house in Avondale. Improvements would include a new roof, new windows, masonry repairs, and ADA-access upgrades. TIF would finance the cost of the entire project.

**Frederic Chopin Park**, 3420 N. Long Ave.

TIF in the amount of \$700,000 would support renovations to Chopin Park field house in Portage Park. Improvements would include a new roof and gutters. TIF would finance the cost of the entire project.



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**Blackhawk Park, 2318 N. Lavergne Ave.**

TIF assistance in the amount of \$3 million would support improvements to the Blackhawk Park field house in Belmont Cragin. Improvements would include masonry restoration, window and door renovations, a new roof and gutters, interior renovations, and ADA-access upgrades. TIF would finance the cost of the entire project.

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