



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT NAMES ANABEL ABARCA NEW 12<sup>th</sup> WARD ALDERMAN**  
*Community Members Conclude Selection Process and Underscore Abarca's Passion for Public Service and Commitment to 12<sup>th</sup> Ward Community*

**CHICAGO** – Today, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced that Anabel Abarca, a resident of the McKinley Park community since 2015, will serve as the new alderman representing the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward. Abarca's selection comes after a selection process led by community members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward.

"Anabel Abarca is a pillar of the 12th Ward community," said Mayor Lightfoot. "Her passion for public service and deep connection to her community makes her the best candidate to serve the residents of McKinley Park, Brighton Park, and Little Village. I look forward to working with Anabel, and I thank the 12th Ward vacancy committee for their collaboration in this process."

Abarca was born in Chicago to working-class parents who immigrated from Mexico. Her father worked two jobs — driving a taxicab and running a small auto repair business in Belmont-Cragin — and her mother cleaned offices and worked at a factory. Growing up, she translated legal and city documents for her parents, which sparked her interest in law and helping people.

As an attorney, Abarca supports the business goals of real estate and construction leaders by helping resolve disputes and negotiate contracts. Throughout her legal career, Abarca has prioritized pro bono work for people who cannot afford legal services.

In addition to her legal experience, Abarca served as chief of staff for former 12th Ward Alderman George Cardenas. Abarca has listened to and uplifted the 12th Ward residents for years and will continue championing the 12th Ward as an alderman.

"Representing and serving the 12th ward is one of the greatest honors I can fulfill for my community. Our ward is filled with motivated and passionate people who see our community's potential, and I look forward to bringing their vision to life as alderwoman. Together, we will make the 12th ward stronger and ensure every neighbor thrives," said Abarca. "Thank you, Mayor Lightfoot and the 12th Ward



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Appointment Committee, for this opportunity to serve the 12th ward. I'm ready to help my community grow and deliver the resources it deserves."

She is involved in many community organizations and served on the executive board of multiple non-profits, including McKinley Park Development Council, Latinos Progresando, and the El Valor Associate Board. She is currently the Treasurer of Women in Planning + Development.

Abarca currently lives in McKinley Park. She was raised on the North Side, received her bachelor's degree at DePaul University, a master's degree in public administration at Arizona State University, and a law degree at Loyola University.

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