

GREGORY MITCHELL
ALDERMAN, 7TH WARD

2249 EAST 95TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60617
PHONE: 773 731 7777
FAX: 877-961-4426



CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL

*
CITY HALL ROOM 200
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
PHONE: 312-744-6833

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

ECONOMIC CAPITAL AND
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
(VICE CHAIRMAN)
BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEES AND RULES
FINANCE
HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE
LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
PUBLIC SAFETY

Laura Flores
Chair, Chicago Plan Commission

Chairman Flores,

I am writing to express support for the proposed Planned Development (PD) submitted by EPIC Academy. The proposal includes the rezoning of the site from RS-3 to RM-5 prior to establishing the PD, the subsequent renovation of an existing four-story building and the construction of four-story expansion building.

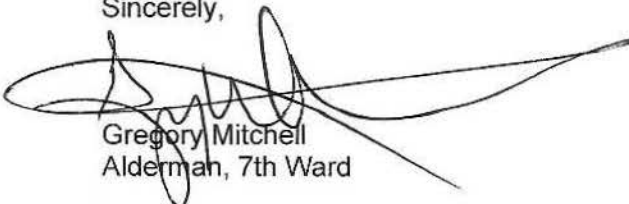
As Alderman of the 7th Ward, and a 7th Ward resident for over 50 years, it has always been my belief that community is built from collective effort towards the common goal. One such goal is providing 7th Ward youth and their families with safe high-quality schools that will help them reach their full potential and open the door to future successes. My education played an enormous role in shaping who I am today, and I am determined to provide a similarly enriching experience for the diverse students across Chicago's 7th Ward.

As it stands, the existing building (former CPS elementary school) hinders growth: it *lacks* music rooms to nurture the next prodigy and their creativity; a gymnasium to form healthy lifestyle habits and develop a healthy sense of competition; a fully-equipped cafeteria to consume nutrient rich foods; ample space for teachers to have their own classroom and build trusting relationships with their students; and outdoor convening spaces to take necessary brain breaks and curb burnout for students and staff. We know our limitations stem from students' ability to try new things, expand their horizons, and access the tools and technology needed to excel in a 21st century environment.

As we navigate the pandemic's debilitating impact, this transformation will re-energize and reinspire EPIC students to continue pursuing excellence and believe that they have a future they can create. Our growth will be a source of community pride and enable EPIC to welcome residents in for events, art performances, and more. It will be a hub of innovation to meet the needs of future generations and a global society.

With a 100% college acceptance rate and an 81% college enrollment rate, EPIC Academy is an incredible example of the impact that an excellent public school can have on students and families. I am excited by EPIC Academy's planned transformation and the positive impact it will have on my ward's future.

Sincerely,



Gregory Mitchell
Alderman, 7th Ward



To the City of Chicago Planned Commission

Here at EPIC Academy, our inclusive, supportive, and engaging learning environment empowers our students to become effective communicators, critical thinkers, and positive stewards in the South Side community we serve. While narratives of crime and violence often overshadow positive stories of hope, courage, and aspiration in our area, the EPIC Academy community believes in family values, the strength of unity, and utilizing community resources to support residents.

Our 100% college acceptance rate is evidence that this approach works. However, our students' potential is currently being limited by a lack of space and access to resources. After all they have overcome during the pandemic, and with an eye to the future, now is the time to give EPIC Academy students what they truly deserve: a state-of-the-art facility that will enable them to succeed in this 21st century learning environment and beyond.

The EPIC Academy expansion will allow us to provide our EPIC community — teachers, staff, students, and their families — with the spaces and resources they need to explore all that education has to offer, including: our first-ever library, a performing arts and media center, a greenhouse for education in plant biology and urban agriculture, a fully-equipped kitchen and cafeteria, science labs, larger classrooms capable of accommodating group learning and diverse learning needs, and the list goes on. Expanding our students' horizons will help them develop with the skills, insights, and perspectives they need to thrive in this next chapter.

We write this letter in strong support of EPIC Academy's proposed expansion. We hope that the Chicago Planned Commission sees the merit in this proposal and how much our students deserve everything that this expansion will provide them.

Signed,
EPIC Academy Board Chair (and on behalf of members)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Annacone', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Annacone



To the City of Chicago Board of Education,

As the teachers and staff, we see firsthand just how valuable an EPE Academy expansion is to our students and their families. As we look to the future, we are very excited by EPE Academy's proposed expansion and all of the benefits it will open up for students in our EPE Academy community at large.

Our current building is bursting with the basic elements that all students need to thrive: access to a fully-staffed cafeteria and space for extra-curricular activities. It is our firm belief that this expansion will not only allow us to serve those who need us, but our students deserve better given their growth of opportunities that will diversify us both, students and young adults.

Our proposed expansion will allow our students to experience the best of both worlds: a world-class learning center in a modern setting. The opportunity to learn in a state-of-the-art facility with modern science, physical education & fitness center, a greenhouse, an innovation lab, and other facilities is a science first and classroom the same. These diverse learning needs will create our students to see all that education has to offer. It will allow them to challenge themselves, to try out a new educational approach, and to help us meet our future.

Having more space will also allow us to use our staff and time more effectively and raise the bar. The expansion will allow teachers to have their own classrooms where they can devote and focus on providing a warm and welcoming learning environment. It will allow us to create space where students can discuss and explore with one another, creating a safe space to learn and explore their learning path for years.

More than anything, it will be a source of pride that carries each one of us through the tough days.

We cannot stress enough how much the Chicago Board of Education's approval of this project would mean to us. By providing our young people with not only positive experiences at the EPE Academy, but a source of pride and joy that they can share. EPE Academy creates a positive atmosphere that is felt throughout South Side and beyond. We are proud to be a part of a school that is the next chapter.

Signed,
EPE Academy Teachers and Staff

C. J.
D. H. Brown
A. J.

Phonicia Clarke
D. H. Brown
D. J. Clark

M. J. Brown
A. J. Clark



To: The City of Chicago Board of Education

As the students and staff we see featured just below salable on EPIC Academy education is in our schools and their families. As we look to the future, we are very excited by EPIC Academy's proposed expansion and a lot of the doors it will open to us, our students, and our EPIC Academy community at large:

The current building is lacking some of the basic structure that all students should have access to, such as fully equipped cafeteria and space for extracurricular activities. It is our belief that this expansion will not only allow us to deliver these basic necessities to our students, ensuring our to give them the breadth of opportunities that will shape them as bold leaders and young adults.

The proposed expansion will also contribute to making our current classroom and creative spaces that are natural building blocks for students. The opportunity to have our first floor library, a performance & media center, a general education & fitness center, a greenhouse for education in plant, biology and other agriculture, art studios, and classroom that can support various learning styles will enable our students to explore, test education hands-on. It will allow them to be engaged and actively involved in their own educational activities, and to fill it with their own ideas.

Having a gym room will also allow us to use our gym to better use for our students and raise funds. This expansion will allow students to be more involved in what they are interested and focus on, collaborating with and welcoming the city environment. It will allow us to create spaces where students can interact and connect with one another, connecting they frequently used and less so other (not trying to be too much).

More than anything, it will be a source of pride that makes it clear that we need to walk through the door each day.

We cannot stress enough how much the Chicago Board of Education's approval of this project would mean to us. By proceeding on, giving people to not only pursue their dreams but also they can be in business (not just operators for the people and issues they care about). It's a positive and a positive on many people's lives that is a lot of light, hope, and success. We are proud to be a part of it and excited for the next chapter.

Signed,
EPIC Academy Teachers and Staff

Chloe West
Diana Butts
Michael Jones
Joseph McDaniel
Joseph McDaniel



Chicago Board of Education, Planning Commission,

As the construction will, we are grateful and very excited that EPIC Academy stands up to be an educational institution. As we look to the future, we are very excited by EPIC Academy's proposal expansion and all of the doors it will open to our students and our EPIC Academy community at large.

Our current building is a strong source of the basic elements that all students need to be successful, such as a fully-staffed cafeteria and space for our core academic activities. It is our full intention that expansion will not only allow us to deliver these basic necessities but our students deserve, but it also gives us the breadth of experience that will shape them to be students and young adults.

The proposed expansion will allow our students to explore new areas of interest and activities that our current building cannot accommodate. The opportunity to have our students engage in a growing number of activities, such as a variety of clubs, sports, and other activities, is an essential part of our educational mission. In addition, a growing number of activities and programs will allow our students to explore new areas of interest and activities that our current building cannot accommodate. This will allow our students to challenge themselves, to try out new experiences, and to fall in love with learning.

Expansion plans will also allow those of us on staff to be more effective for our students and the school. The expansion will allow teachers to have their own classrooms where they can collaborate and focus on cultivating a warm and welcoming learning environment. It will allow us to create spaces where students can discuss and collaborate with one another, providing a very beautiful and safe environment after the school day has ended.

More than anything, it will be a source of pride for the members of our school to walk through the doors every day.

We cannot stress enough how much the Chicago Board of Education's approval of this project contributes to us. By preparing our plans, we are not only providing a better educational environment for our students but also providing a source of pride for the people and communities they care about. EPIC Academy creates a positive educational experience for all throughout South Side and beyond. We are proud to be a part of it and we thank you for this opportunity.

Signed,
EPIC Academy Teachers and Staff



To the City of Chicago Board of Education,

As the teachers and staff, we see Epiphany just how valuable an EPIC Academy education is to our students and their families. As we look to the future, we are very excited by EPIC Academy's proposed expansion and all of the things it will open to us, our students, and our EPIC Academy community at large.

The current building is lacking some of the basic elements that all students should have access to, such as a fully equipped cafeteria and space for extracurricular activities. This expansion will, this expansion will not only allow us to fulfill these basic necessities but our students deserve to give them the breadth of experiences that will shape them as both students and young adults.

The proposed expansion will allow our students to explore new educational and creative avenues that our current building cannot accommodate. The opportunity to have our fine arts library, a performing arts & media center, a physical education & fitness center, a greenhouse for education, a gift shop, and other opportunities, services, fees, and discounts that can support diverse learning needs will enable our students to see all the educational possibilities. It will allow them to challenge themselves to try out a new activity, to learn a new activity, and to fill in gaps with learning.

Having more room will also allow these teachers staff to better care for our students and the people. This expansion will allow teachers to have their own classrooms where they can deliberate and focus on cultivating a warm and welcoming learning environment. It will allow us to create spaces where students can discuss and connect with one another, something they desperately need and deserve after their trying past few years.

Most importantly, it will be a source of pride that makes each one of us excited to walk through the door each day.

We cannot stress enough how much the Chicago Board of Education's support of this project would mean to us. By supporting our young people, we only become ourselves in all that they do, better because instead of some for the people and issues they care about. EPIC Academy means a positive community people offer that is felt throughout South Side and beyond. We are proud to be a part of it, and excited for the next chapter.

Signed,
EPIC Academy Teachers and Staff



to the Chicago Board of Education.

As the teachers and staff, we see firsthand how valuable an EPIC Academy education is to our students and their families. As we look to the future, we are very excited by EPIC Academy's potential expansion and all of the ways it will open up, not only for our EPIC Academy community of hope.

Our goal of building a better future for our students that all students should have access to, such as a fully engaged, vibrant, and open to new experiences. It is our firm belief that this expansion will not only allow us to deliver more than we can today, but to give them the benefit of experience that will shape them as both students and young adults.

The proposed expansion will allow our students to explore new educational and career pathways that we cannot build, cannot accommodate. The opportunity to have our students, through performing arts, media arts, a type of education that meets career, a great way for students to gain training and other opportunities. We are also, we encourage the expansion to support those learning needs of students, to give them the opportunity to learn. It will allow them to take the time to learn, to be able to use their own time, and to be able to learn.

As we, the staff, will, to allow these of us on staff to better care for our students and raise morale. This expansion will allow students to have their own classrooms where they can discuss and focus on cultivating a warm and welcoming learning environment. It will allow us to open up more classrooms, our doors and connect with one another, something they desperately need and deserve after these trying past few years.

Very truly yours, it will be a cause of pride that makes our lives so excited to work through the door each day.

We cannot emphasize enough how much the Chicago Board of Education's approval of this project would mean to us. By preparing our young people, not only please ourselves in all that they do, but to become successful adults for the people and lives they are living. EPIC Academy creates a positive opportunity to give them the best throughout their lives and beyond. We are proud to be part of it, and excited for this next chapter.

Signed,
EPIC Academy Teachers and Staff

Maria Lopez
Stephanna Perez
Amante Gomez
John Carter

Rodney A. Brown, Jr.



To the Board of Chicago Board of Education,

As the members of staff, we see firsthand just how valuable an EPIC Academy education is to our students and their families. As we look to the future, we are very excited by EPIC Academy's mission, expansion, and all of the doors it will open for our students, and our EPIC Academy community at large.

Our current building is lacking some of the basic elements that all students should have access to, such as a fully equipped cafeteria, and space for our some outdoor activities. It is our firm belief that this expansion will not only allow us to deliver those basic necessities that our students deserve, but it gives them the benefit of experiencing what will change their lives, both students and young adults.

The proposed expansion will allow our students to explore new ideas and a different perspective that our current building is not accommodating. The opportunity to have our own gym, a performing arts & media center, physical education & fitness center, a greenhouse for education to plant, biology and other experiments, outdoor field, and classrooms that can support diverse learning needs will enable our students to see all that education has to offer. It will allow them to challenge themselves, to set out a new career/major strategy, and to fall in love with learning.

Having more space will also allow those teachers on staff to create one per one, students and care more. The expansion will allow teachers to have their own classrooms where they can decorate and focus on cultivating a warm and welcoming, learning environment. It will allow us to create space where students can thrive and connect with one another, an ethical life, independently read and discuss after their class, and for years.

More than anything, it will be a source of pride that makes each one of us excited to walk through the door each day.

We cannot stress enough how much the Chicago Public Schools Board's approach of this project would mean to us by inspiring everyone people to not only pursue excellence in all that they do, but to become successful advocates for the people and communities they care about. EPIC Academy is more a part of our community ripple effect, that is felt throughout South Street and beyond. We are proud to be a part of it, and excited for the next chapter.

Signed,
EPIC Academy Teachers and Staff

Will Collins

Vanessa Aguilera

Joseph C. McDaniel

Clinton A. Barry

Adrian F. [Signature]

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1303 E. 53RD STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60615
(773) 363-8870



SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
264-S STRATTON OFFICE BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
(217) 782-8121

CURTIS J. TARVER II
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
25TH DISTRICT

April 12, 2023

Laura Flores, Chair
City of Chicago, Plan Commission
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Andre Brumfield, Vice- Chair
City of Chicago, Plan Commission
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602

I am writing to express support for EPIC Academy's proposed expansion to a new building located within the Illinois House of Representatives 25th district.

As a father, and representative for this district for the last four years, it has always been my belief that a community is built from collective effort towards the common goal. One such goal is providing the youth and their families of the 25th District with safe high-quality schools that will help them reach their full potential and spur economic development for statewide impact. My education played a pivotal role in shaping who I am today, and I am determined to provide a similarly enriching experience for the diverse students across Chicago's southeast region.

This project is beyond a new school building. It will transform EPIC Academy from a single-site school to a regional institution that encourages families to relocate here, and businesses to revitalize the local ecosystem. As it stands, the existing building hinders this growth: it lacks music rooms to nurture the next prodigy and their creativity; a gymnasium to form healthy lifestyle habits and develop a healthy sense of competition; a fully-equipped cafeteria to consume nutrient rich foods; ample space for teachers to have their own classroom and build trusting relationships with their students; and outdoor convening spaces to take necessary brain breaks and curb burnout for students and staff. We know our limitations stem students' ability to try new things, expand their horizons, and access the tools and technology needed to excel in a 21st century environment.

As we navigate the pandemic's debilitating impact, this transformation will re-energize and reinspire EPIC students to continue pursuing excellence and believe that they have a future they can create. Our growth will be a source of community pride and enable EPIC to welcome in residents for events, art performances, and more. It will be a hub of innovation to meet the needs of future generations within our global society.

This is a project I stand by: I maintain regular communication with the EPIC leadership and receive critical project progress updates. I have seen their plans and trust the vision. I am confident that EPIC Academy will be key to the revitalization of this community.

With a 100% college acceptance rate and an 81% college enrollment rate, EPIC Academy is an incredible example of the impact that an excellent public school can have on students and families. It will serve as an exemplar model for schools across the city.

I am excited by EPIC Academy's planned transformation and the positive impact it will have on my district's future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CJ Tarver II', written in a cursive style.

Curtis J. Tarver II