

# American Islamic College

Asylum Seeker Sheltering Discussion

Friday, July 21, 2023

For Official Use Only





- ❑ Over **11,000 individuals and family members** have arrived to Chicago since August 31, 2022.
- ❑ Arriving from across the globe, primarily from Central and South America.
- ❑ The first phase of arrivals were sent by the State of Texas with no coordination with the City.
- ❑ Asylum seekers are also arriving via plane and other means, seeking shelter.

- ❑ No funds diverted from the regular homeless shelter system to support the migrant mission.
- ❑ The City is identifying shelter spaces, providing the basic needs and advocating to the federal government for support and to fix this system.
- ❑ All hands-on-deck including City staff, State and County officials, delegate agencies, faith leaders, community leaders and volunteers.
- ❑ **58 buses** have arrived in Chicago since May 9th, including one which arrived this morning.

- ❑ Since August 2022, the City has established 25 shelters & 2 airport staging areas throughout the city to quickly and safely provide shelter to new arrivals.
  - ❑ Large capacity with space for eating, showers, and must pass safety tests
  - ❑ An empty space does not equate an adequate shelter
  - ❑ The City is limited to spaces within city limits as that is our only jurisdiction
  - ❑ The State or County would be responsible for finding other spaces if they wanted to create shelter outside the City of Chicago
  - ❑ The federal government has not issued a disaster declaration; therefore certain resources, such as Red Cross, unavailable

- The overflow is stressing our police stations.
- 958 persons** currently sleeping on police station floors including families with small children.
- The American Islamic College can help ease the pressure felt at our police stations.

- All current new arrivals shelters **are at or near capacity**

Current Shelter Locations				
Location	Address	Ward	Current Census	Shelter Type
<b>High Ridge YMCA</b>	2424 W Touhy Ave	50	149	Single Men and Women
<b>YWLA</b>	2641 S Calumet Ave	4	247	Single Men
<b>Wadsworth</b>	6420 S University	20	584	Single Men and Women
<b>Social Club</b>	320 S Plymouth Ct	4	1,169	Single Men and Women
<b>Inn of Chicago</b>	162 E Ohio St	42	1,468	Families
<b>North Park Village</b>	5801 N Pulaski	39	176	Families
<b>Leone Beach Park</b>	1222 W Touhy Ave	49	101	Single Men
<b>Brands Park</b>	3259 N Elston Ave	33	150	Families
<b>Piotrowski Park</b>	4247 W 31st St	22	196	Families
<b>Wright College</b>	4300 N Narragansett	38	387	Families
<b>Daley College</b>	7500 S Pulaski	18	415	Families
<b>Gage Park</b>	2411 W 55th St	15	277	Single Men and Women
<b>New Life Church</b>	2958 N Damen Ave	32	40	Families
<b>Near South H.C.</b>	3525 S Michigan Ave	3	48	Single Men
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>5,407</b>	

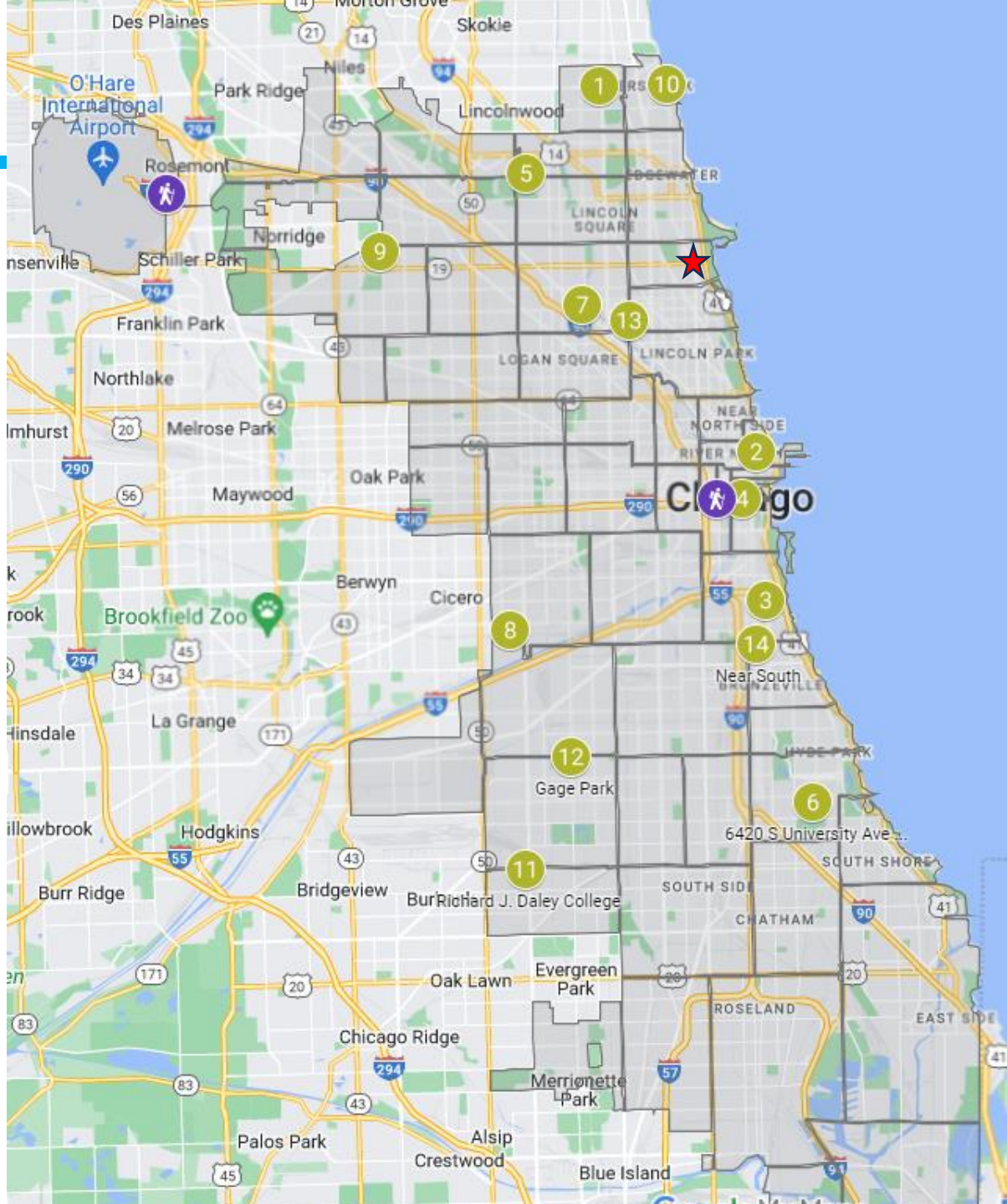
## Map showing current New Arrival Shelters



Shelter Sites (14)



American Islamic College



- Over 200 locations vetted. Many facilities did not meet health, safety, and capacity requirements.
- The American Islamic College is meeting the moment by opening their space as a temporary shelter.



- What will be provided at American Islamic College:
  - Cots, blankets, towels, showers, laundry services, and food
  - Access to healthcare screenings
  - School enrollment
  - Youth enrichment activities
  - Majority bilingual staff
- Clients allowed to leave the building. Overnight curfew enforced.

- ❑ **Comprehensive Medical Exams** are performed after entry into the shelter system at a local clinic, usually within 72 hours. New arrivals are screened for a wide range of illnesses and health conditions at that time.
- ❑ **Shelter-Based Care** Onsite medical care is provided about 1-2 times weekly at shelters by shelter-based care providers
- ❑ **Community Health Work & Social Services** Federally Qualified Health Center partners are going to City shelters to provide information and connections to additional medical and social services, as a third layer of care.
- ❑ **Mobile Health/Urgent Care** Urgent care services are provided on site at police districts and other locations for individuals not immediately placed in a City shelter due to a lack of space, by teams of volunteer health providers.

## What rules and expectations are there for residents?

- Rules include:
  - No visitors or walk-ins
  - Abide by 11PM curfew
  - Sign in and out with front desk staff
  - No drugs and alcohol allowed
  - Clients must respect the entire property
  - Smoking is not permitted
- Residents may be discharged for violation of rules
  - Unless the reason for discharge is violence or active threat toward others, resident may be placed at another location

- Earliest possible move-in date: **July 28**
- Facility will host **families with children**
- Capacity:
  - Up to 600 clients by early August
  - Up to 800 clients by early September
  - Possible further expansion in coming months



- Security outside campus: CPD
  - Special attention
  - Frequent building checks on every watch
  - Logbook and interactivity with onsite security
- Together with onsite security resulting in 24/7 security
- Non-emergency contact available:  
[communityengagement@cityofchicago.org](mailto:communityengagement@cityofchicago.org)

- The City is working with the State on long-term transition plans for new arrivals across City shelters and advocating for federal resources.
- Goal is for new arrivals to become **self-sufficient, self-autonomous, and self-actualized.**
- Resettlement Services began April 17, 2023.
  - To date, **531 signed leases** and **333 moves** to permanent housing
  - On June 27, 2023: 189 had moved to permanent housing and 440 had signed leases and in process off moving in



## All hands-on-deck



- Activating wrap-around case management across shelters in collaboration with the State and Illinois Coalition for Refugee and Immigrant Rights network
- Activating Welcoming Centers
- City-run volunteer program
- Coordinating with mutual aid networks



- North Area Community Service Center
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845 West Wilson Ave, (312) 744-2580
- Workforce Opportunities
  - Community residents may apply for shelter positions at: [favoritestaffing.com/apply](http://favoritestaffing.com/apply)
  - Community residents may apply for security positions at: [skytechsecurity.com](http://skytechsecurity.com)
  - To learn more about workforce development programs and other community resources, visit: [chicago.gov/fss](http://chicago.gov/fss)
  - To learn about donation opportunities please visit: [chicago.gov/support](http://chicago.gov/support)
- 311 – Shelter requests
- 211 – Free, 24/7/365 service that connects residents to essential health and social service support and information during times of non-emergency crisis and for everyday needs

**We want to hear from you!**  
Questions and Comments



# **APPENDIX**

# Panel

- MO – Beatriz Ponce DeLeon
  - OEMC – Matt Doughtie (moderator)
  - DFSS – Danny Castaneda
  - CPD – D.C. Stephen Chung
  - Alderwoman – Angela Clay
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- Support staff: Sara Mathers, Jesus DelToro (MOCE); Alder office staff