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VACANT FIRE HOUSE TO BE USED AS AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER MUSEUM

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today introduced an ordinance that would authorize the execution of a City and Landlord lease agreement with the Chicago Fire Department African-American Firefighter Museum, NFP for use of a vacant fire house located at 5349 South Wabash Avenue. The property would be used as a museum of African-American firefighter artifacts and displays.

"It is important that the City memorialize the public safety contributions of African-American firefighters," said Mayor Emanuel. "This project will allow the Chicago Fire Department African American Firefighter Museum to use a vacant fire house to honor the African-American firefighters who have protected generations of Chicagoans."

The lease allows the Chicago Fire Department African-American Firefighter Museum, NFP to occupy the space for $1.00 for the term of the lease. The organization would be responsible for all maintenance, security, custodial services, and payment of all utilities for the property. The lease will expire on December 31, 2023, but may be canceled by either party with 90 days' notice.

"I am delighted to welcome the Chicago Fire Department African American Firefighter Museum to the Washington Park neighborhood where the contributions of past and present African American firefighters to the City of Chicago will be celebrated," said Alderman Pat Dowell, 3rd ward. "Investing in cultural centers of learning is an important strategy to improve our communities."

The Chicago Fire Department African-American Firefighter Museum, NFP is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was formed to honor the accomplishments of African-American firefighters. The organization will use the space as a public museum that will help to anchor the surrounding area and will provide local youth with positive and constructive influences.

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