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People saving places.

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January 21, 2015

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel
Mayor of the City of Chicago
121 N. LaSalle Street
Suite 507
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mayor Emanuel:

In light of today's media reports that the Chicago City Council may discuss the transfer of park land, I am writing on behalf of Landmarks Illinois to state our position regarding the use of historic park land for the siting of the Obama Presidential Library. Landmarks Illinois is the statewide, not-for-profit historic preservation advocacy and education organization founded in Chicago in 1971.

The following resolution was adopted on January 20, 2015, by the Landmarks Illinois Board of Directors.

WHEREAS, Landmarks Illinois supports the bid to host the Obama Presidential Library in Chicago;

WHEREAS, our mission is to preserve, protect and promote Illinois' historic resources;

WHEREAS, both Washington Park and Jackson Park are listed on the National Register of Historic Places for their association with important events, including the Chicago World's Fair, as well as their design by Frederick Law Olmstead and Daniel Burnham;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Landmarks Illinois believes there are alternative sites in Chicago that will accommodate an innovative, world-class design for the Obama Presidential Library without locating the building in a historic park.

We thank you and the members of the City Council for your consideration of Landmarks Illinois' position. The board members and staff stand ready to assist the City of Chicago and its partners on this matter.

Best regards,

Bonnie McDonald

Bonnie McDonald
President & CEO

cc: Commissioner Andrew Mooney, Department of Planning and Development