



**Landmarks Illinois Statement
to the Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Regarding Application for Demolition of 2347 S. Michigan Avenue
October 17, 2024
Kendra Parzen, Advocacy Manager, Landmarks Illinois**

Good morning. My name is Kendra Parzen, and I am the Chicago area Advocacy Manager for Landmarks Illinois. On behalf of my organization, I oppose the application to demolish 2347 S. Michigan Avenue, a contributing building to the Motor Row Historic District. This 1910 building was constructed as a Fiat showroom, but more significantly, it was the site in 2003 of a stampede at the E2 nightclub that claimed twenty-one lives. This history is incredibly tragic. We understand from media coverage that the applicant has proposed to memorialize victims of those events as part of plans for a new housing development. We completely support memorialization if that is in accordance with the wishes of the families and loved ones of those who perished. However, memorialization should not be wielded as a means to push through the demolition of a historic building. Instead, memorialization should take place after an inclusive process where those affected are respected and valued, treated with fairness and dignity, and lead the decision-making. To my knowledge, such a process has not taken place. If at the conclusion of such an inclusive and considered

process, it is the families' collective wish that the existing building should be demolished, we would support that outcome. Thank you for considering our comments.