



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**CITY OF CHICAGO**

**RAHM EMANUEL**  
MAYOR

November 21, 2014

Mr. Martin Nesbitt  
Chairman  
The Barack Obama Foundation  
300 East Randolph Street  
Suite 4030  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Mr. Nesbitt:

I am pleased to write to you today in support of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and its North Lawndale community partners, who are jointly preparing a proposal to become the site of the future Barack Obama Presidential Library.

The City of Chicago is committed to preserving President Obama's legacy of optimism and hope for generations to come. As a tangible expression of that commitment, I would like to highlight a few of the ways in which Chicago can advance the UIC-North Lawndale proposal:

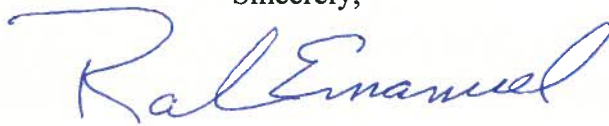
- 1) Supporting the conveyance of land in the North Lawndale community. Should that site be selected by The Barack Obama Foundation, I myself will work with the City Council to ensure that conveyance is conducted quickly and at minimal cost.
- 2) Rezoning of the North Lawndale site to facilitate multifaceted use. A zoning change would be required since the proposed site has split zoning districts between commercial and general manufacturing use.
- 3) Commitment to area improvement to ensure that the site is clean. Related projects would be complete well before any development for the Library would begin.
- 4) Collaborating with North Lawndale in developing a community-driven planning process. We would seek to maximize the positive impact of the Library upon surrounding neighborhoods.
- 5) Working with the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) to revamp and reopen the Kostner Blue Line Station to facilitate access to North Lawndale.

- 6) Offering Small Business Improvement Fund (SBIF) grants to eligible businesses who successfully apply in North Lawndale, provided that a new Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district can be created in this area.
- 7) Partnering with transportation organizations including but not limited to CTA, Metra and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) on improving access to and from the site. Improvements might include streetscape and station upgrades, way-finding signage, bike lanes, new sidewalks, landscaping, decorative lighting, and community identifiers. These improvements would be expansive, considering the needs of residents and including surrounding neighborhoods.
- 8) Establishing a small business incubator with microfinancing capacity in North Lawndale to assist local entrepreneurs in serving the needs of Library users.
- 9) Encouraging Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to partner with the Library in developing educational and engagement programs for students in North Lawndale and neighboring communities.
- 10) Leveraging a "citywide steering committee of business, civic, planning and government leaders" to maximize West Side development triggered by the library.
- 11) Creating and shepherding an innovative "local education zone," deepening the Library programming and engagement with elementary, high school and community college students.

The City of Chicago has undoubtedly played an integral role in the life and career of President Barack Obama. A city of vibrant neighborhoods made strong by our diverse residents, I can think of no better home for the Library. Chicago champions culture, community, and change, and alongside UIC and North Lawndale community partners, will do its very best to ensure that the President's dream lives on

Thank you for considering the City of Chicago as a potential home for the Barack Obama Presidential Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rahm Emanuel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rahm" and last name "Emanuel" clearly distinguishable.

Mayor