



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

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A completed questionnaire must be received by Friday, January 27 to have answers distributed to our stakeholders as early voting starts. Please return to rachelbr@fotp.org.

ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND AND PRIORITIES RELATED TO PARKS

A. Briefly describe any accomplishments or projects you have been involved with related to parks.

Response: I am very proud to have instituted a Participatory Budgeting (PB) Process in my ward where residents propose and vote on how we spend our ward's budget. Through this process, we have brought many improvements to the ward's green spaces - including a nature play space for an elementary school, a community garden, 5 miles of bike lanes, and an expanded dog park at Horner Park. The high school in my ward is 100 years old and has never had a home game because they don't have a field. I worked to secure \$5.8M in TIF funds to install a new turf field at Roosevelt High School and this year, they will host their first home game.

B. Are you planning to introduce legislation or initiatives to address any environmental justice issues? Do you have particular environmental priorities, park programming priorities, or see connections with other priorities for your community? If so, please identify those here.

Response: While I do not have specific plans at this point to introduce legislation myself, I do plan to work with my colleagues to pass a number of environmental initiatives over the next term. I support taking municipal control of ComEd. ComEd was not concerned with lowering electricity usage because their profit increased the more electricity was used in the city. If the city controls the electrical grid, we can start to get serious about reducing usage and lowering emissions. I also support a Green New Deal for Chicago that includes cleaning polluted areas and lowering pollution generally. A GND should also include replacing lead service lines in our water system at a much faster pace than the city has been going so far. Newark, NJ could replace more lines PER DAY than Chicago has replaced in any given year. That is unacceptable.

I support a massive expansion to park programming, especially for young people. We need to increase available activities for all Chicagoans, and for young people especially. As much as possible, those activities should focus on the health of those participating and increasing community involvement.

C. Chicago's motto is *Urbs in Horto* (City in a Garden). In the most recent *We Will Chicago* planning process, park discussions were thinly and inadequately spread across all the pillars and not a central



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focus of planning. How will you prioritize parks or demonstrate that parks are critical to healthy, thriving communities and the entire city and its residents?

Response: Space to play, gather, and interact with nature is fundamental to both human and societal well-being. We should be expanding the park system in Chicago both in terms of park space and also the programming offered at the parks. I would support legislation that provides funding for programs that accomplish those goals and will insist that the most underserved parts of the city are prioritized.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Below are 11 topics related to parks. Please share your thoughts and policies on each subject using the list of bulleted questions as a guide.

1) EQUITY PLAN FOR CHICAGO'S PARKS

Forty years ago, On May 13, 1983, the [Chicago Park District entered into a consent decree with the federal government](#), resulting from a three-year investigation and a 1982 federal lawsuit addressing racial discrimination in the allocation of resources within the park district. The decree sought to promote equal and non-discriminatory treatment of Black and Latino communities by establishing rigorous and detailed systems, procedures and schedules that could assure equity, responsiveness, and transparency for these neighborhoods and their parks. It was in effect for six years, and Friends of the Parks registered our displeasure when the court lifted the order even though the Chicago Park District was not in full compliance with the terms of the Consent Decree.

Many other large cities have a written equity plan or framework to guide work for their park district, but Chicago has no such plan or codified standards despite documented racial inequity in park access and resources per our 2018 State of the Parks report. Public parks on the South and West Sides of Chicago often have less access to building facilities, fewer programs, and less investment in parks.

- **What policies do you support to address this inequity and improve the park-going experience in South and West Side neighborhood parks?**
 - Response: I support codifying an equitable plan for parks in South and West side neighborhoods. As I said above, I would insist that any parks plan passed through City Council be specific that historically underserved communities must be prioritized as we work to revitalize our park system.

RESPONSE EQUITY PLAN FOR CHICAGO'S PARKS:

2) GREEN SPACE AND CREATING NEW PARKS



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While more than [98% of Chicagoans](#) live within a 10-minute walk of green space or a playground, **Chicago lags behind most other high-density cities in park acreage per capita and total city acreage committed to public parkland (9%)**. Residents' access to recreational amenities and facilities they hope to find in their parks is not equitable across the city. The West Side of the city has the least parks or green space. While most parkland is on the city's South Side, these parks receive less capital investment and programmatic funding than North Side parks and much of it is undeveloped or underdeveloped brownfield sites that do not yet support much or any public use. These facts demonstrate that Chicago continues to experience systemic racial inequity when it comes to accessing or creating new green spaces.

- **How will you prioritize the creation of new green spaces and parks in your ward? How will you include the community in the planning and development process?**
 - Response: My office established a Participatory Budgeting (PB) process that allows ward residents to propose and vote on projects that can be funded with our annual menu funds. In the four years of the PB program we have funded numerous park improvements, as well as community gardens. I am always open to ideas of how we can improve our existing parks and the programming offered within our green spaces.

- **What metrics or factors will you use to determine which communities should receive new green space? What equity considerations will you include in your assessment?**
 - In both cases I think it makes sense to look at historical marginalization and disinvestment. There is a saying related to inequity in Chicago that “all maps of Chicago are the same map” because the affluent areas are clearly delineated from the marginalized areas. The city has never lacked the information necessary to know which areas deserve increased attention under an equitable framework, what the city has lacked is the political will to grapple with White Supremacy.

- **The 10-minute Trust for Public Land “walk score” mentioned above includes Chicago Park District spaces (parks, playlots, and beaches) and any green space in the city, including Forest Preserves, spaces managed by NeighborSpace, the 19 boulevards managed by the Chicago Department of Transportation, and privately owned public spaces (POPs). With all these various groups stewarding green spaces, coordination and comprehensive planning can be difficult and complex. How will you sort through the different managers to coordinate increasing access to parkland and green spaces in your ward?**
 - I think the hard part is going to be hammering out a comprehensive plan with sufficient community buy-in. If we build a movement sufficient to present a unified plan, we can demand the coordination necessary to implement it.



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- **The Illinois state standard is 10 acres of green space for every 1000 residents. As urban planning and development occur in your ward, how will you ensure there is adequate green space for the community to thrive?**
 - Every year our Participatory Budgeting process has funded and developed parks and green spaces in our ward, from nature play places at schools to community gardens. Also, we are working hard to create more community connection to these spaces. For example, my office is currently working on an initiative to connect restaurants to Global Gardens - a community garden for refugee families in Albany Park.

- **Developers and the City have often tried to assert that publicly owned private spaces (POPs) will always be accessible to the public, just as if they belonged to the Chicago Park District. Historically POPs have not always been equally accessible to all residents as the private owner ultimately controls the space. What is your vision for ensuring true public access to new green spaces being created in mega-developments and other planned developments?**
 - I think the only way is to code it into the zoning permissions for those developments that access to green spaces within them cannot be restricted.

- **As the Chicago Park District plans construction of new facilities (pickleball courts, basketball courts, fieldhouses, etc.), how will you allocate resources to address the realities of racial inequity in Chicago and historic disinvestment and neglect of some communities? How will you include the community in determining what facilities and amenities are needed?**
 - While we could always use more green space, the 33rd Ward is, by and large, well served in terms of its parks and green spaces. The areas of the city in need of prioritization are on the South and West sides. I would strongly encourage alders in those areas to implement PB if they have not and to prioritize park improvements in the PB process. I also support a city budget process that incorporates real public input processes and opportunities.

- **Golf courses count as green space and as park acres for residents, but the use is restricted to those playing a particular sport and paying a fee for service. What initiative do you support to make such spaces dual purpose or to expand usage to more residents?**
 - I support making those spaces dual-usage and am always willing to work with organized community groups on initiatives they bring forward.

- **As Chicago deindustrializes and closes former industrial sites, like General Iron and Damen Silos, large swaths of land and former buildings can be re-imagined and re-developed. For example, with the recent closing of General Iron in Lincoln Park and the development of**



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Lincoln Yards, neighborhood advocates have asked for the site to be used as part of a new North Branch Park and Preserve. The preserve could expand access to the river for the whole city and decrease the green space deficit the community currently experiences and will get worse with the added residential density proposed for Lincoln Yards. How do you think comprehensively about the opportunity these sites and the transition across the city offers? How will you coordinate a vision across the city using these spaces to increase green space for all communities? How will you prioritize which neighborhoods or communities should experience development of these new de-industrialized green spaces first?

- As above, prioritization should always be of areas of the city that have been marginalized and suffered the worst disinvestment. In short, generally the city simply needs to follow the guidelines of the reports it receives. In a lot of cases, the city simply ignores the information its own departments compile about equitable allocation of resources. It is rare that we lack the knowledge of what to do; what we have lacked is the political will. But I am confident that a new city council with a progressive group of alders, along with a new Mayor can make real progress in these areas.

RESPONSE GREEN SPACE AND CREATING NEW PARKS:

3) LAKEFRONT

Chicago's lakefront is a gem of the city and our city is unique in preserving the lake for all people. Currently, 26 of the 30 miles are publicly available for use and protected for the public, but two miles to the north and south remain cut off from public parks, beaches, and paths.

- **What policies do you support to ensure the lakefront remains free and clear for all Chicagoans to enjoy?** Please consider both the preservation of space (such as the Lakefront Protection Ordinance and Public Trust Doctrine) and practices that affect use (such as facilities and policing).
 - I support codifying public access to the lakefront as well as opposing attempts at policing access. I support making the lakefront as accessible as possible including increased transit options to get to the lake as well as infrastructure improvements like public bathrooms.
- **What efforts do you support to increase access to the city's lakefront by pedestrians, transit riders, cyclists, and people using wheelchairs and other mobility supports?**
 - Infrastructure updates that prioritize exactly this. Including a connected network of truly protected bike lanes that has as many paths to the lakefront as is feasible.

RESPONSE LAKEFRONT:



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4) ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

In February 2020, Chicago declared a climate change emergency in response to severe storms and lakeshore erosion. Lakefront parks and beaches across the city suffer a battering of lake waves and the loss of sand and erosion at alarming rates. It is estimated that the storms of 2020 caused [\\$37 million in damages](#) to beaches and parks. Erosion, intense storms, and the failing of concrete revetments, metal girders and rock barriers installed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have caused [4 beaches in Roger Park](#) to be washed away and closed; revealed infill at Rainbow Beach as sand was lost; resulted lake water levels reached the top of the stairs at Calumet Park Beach House; and led to the permanent closing of a third of the [Northerly Island walking path](#)—merely a year after it was opened in 2015.

The threat is only going to continue. Concrete, metal and rock barriers push higher water to unprotected places. Lake levels have always fluctuated, but scientists believe lake levels will continue to trend higher. Regardless of lake level, the increased severity of storm surges due to climate change place our [shoreline communities at greater risk](#) of flooding and damage.

Nature-based solutions are a resilient, long-term, cost-effective method to manage the impact of climate change along the lake and across the city. This approach uses natural ecosystems to provide protection such as wetlands for flood mitigation; trees and prairie spaces to combat the heat island effect; and mangroves to reduce the impact of waves, storm surge, and coastal erosion. These ecosystems also soften climate impacts, such as extreme weather, and reduce climate pollution by capturing carbon dioxide from the air and sequestering it in plants and soils.

Parkland and beaches are already a nature-based solution. The sand, soil, and plantings provide buffering and absorption that helps manage the fluctuation in lake levels and more frequent and severe storms. These green spaces furnish lakefront with recreational or contemplative areas and habitats for humans and wildlife to enjoy.

- **How will you support the preservation or expansion of parkland, native plants, and healthy, mature trees and new tree planting across the city to combat climate change impacts that affect the shoreline and inland communities?**
 - We have to drastically increase funding for forestry services in the city. While the wait for tree-trimmings has been cut in half, it went from two years to one year. That is unacceptable. We must have adequate resources and staffing to upkeep the nature and critical green spaces in our city.

RESPONSE ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:

5) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARK ADVISORY COUNCILS



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About 200 of Chicago's over 600 parks, beaches, playlots, and playgrounds have recognized Park Advisory Councils (PACs), resident groups of committed volunteers who support their parks through volunteerism, fundraising and other activities. Many PACs want influence over programs and maintenance and decisions about how parks will be used, but in reality, many feel left out of those decisions. At times, new permits are handed out for large events or art installations and PAC members or leadership don't find out until the event is underway or changes are being made to the park.

- **Across the city there is no required or standard process around public notice and community input for park projects. How will you make sure that the public is informed and engaged in development, capital improvements, urban planning, large event or space rentals, and park planning decisions in your ward?**
 - I have instituted both Participatory Budgeting and Community Driven Zoning in our ward to ensure a robust public process, culminating in a binding vote on zoning changes and ward budgeting. There should be a process, like Participatory Budgeting, city wide which requires resident approval of park projects. Increasing the impact of community input will create a sense of community ownership of the parks.
- **How will you engage with Park Advisory Councils in urban planning, budgeting, funding decisions, considering capital improvement, determining park programming, and deciding what events or installations are placed in parks in your ward?**
 - In the same ways that we have worked with community groups in our PB and Community Driven Zoning processes. I will create a democratic process that everyone is invited to be a part of.
- **How will you support the formation or the rebuilding of Park Advisory Councils in your ward?**
 - By empowering these groups to take initiative in informing the community, gathering community input, and helping to run the democratic decision making over these areas, and using my platforms to amplify the work of the councils.

RESPONSE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARK ADVISORY COUNCILS:

6) PARK PRIVATIZATION AND REVENUE

The Park District generates most of its income from property taxes, and over the last decade, its share of those taxes has declined from 6.1% to 4.7%. The average property tax unit pays \$260 towards the Park District's budget.



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To supplement income, the Chicago Park District has increased revenue generating activity – raising fees for harbor and golf courses; issuing permits and renting out parks for private festivals; contracting with more concessionaires or other vendors; adding billboard or advertising; renting space for Amazon lockers; increased renting out park buildings and facilities as special event spaces. Some of these activities close off parkland and public facilities for weeks during the summer and over popular weekends, damage park facilities, and create a distraction for park users who seek tranquility or a natural oasis. While some renters and permit holders repair park damage, it takes months for vegetation to regrow or capital improvements to be finished, impeding park use far beyond the closures.

Some of the most notable examples of these revenue generating activities have been new contracts with Lollapalooza, the NASCAR race planned for 2023, and mega-festivals in Douglass Park. Residents across the city cite a feeling that parks have been commercialized and are no longer public, community spaces for people.

- **As park district spaces have refocused on revenue-generating outside events, many community partners and programs have been booted from park district buildings and grounds, or can no longer afford to use the space. What policies do you support to prioritize the use of park space for residents and community groups over revenue generating activities and improve community engagement by private groups seeking to operate for profit in public parks?**
 - Restricting public access to parks for the purpose of profit should be something that requires public approval. The city should have to demonstrate sufficient benefit to the city and community that the public willingly allows events to restrict public access. Additionally, lucrative private contracts should not be available to aldermen or members of their families.
- **The income from these events does not go a specific park, but rather to the Park District budget as a whole, leaving some residents to feel their park bears the brunt of the burden without reaping benefits. How do we ensure the impact and benefits of these rental events or fees are spread equitably?**
 - Income from events should be available to park or neighborhood from which it was generated.
- **In the need to find new funding sources or expand programming, the Park District often balances private or non-profit partners and community programming, users, or needs. At times the interests of these different park users can be at odds. One example is a private baseball program that would like to pay for and install new lights at [Welles Park](#), but some community members are opposed. How will you manage the competing interest of various stakeholders when money is involved?**



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- Our parks should not have to rely on private funding. Sufficient progressive revenue streams can be implemented to fully fund all community resources. The city's not broke; its priorities are.
- **When permits are issued for large music festivals or events, like the NASCAR race, the Park District does not have to consult alderpeople, but the event requires resources and time from multiple city departments, such as the police department to manage crowds, CDOT to reorganize traffic, and Streets and Sanitation to clean up. What policies do you support to increase coordination between city agencies, community members, and the Park District when determining what large events happen in parks?**
 - I believe implementing a system under which community members must approve events which shut down parks, this will be addressed the best way possible.
- **To what extent should the Park District's budget rely on private, revenue generating events, vendors and concession stands, fees for service, advertisements (i.e. billboards), and renting the parks to for-profit groups?**
 - Not at all. We should fully fund and resources our public services and infrastructure.

RESPONSE PARK PRIVATIZATION AND REVENUE:

7) BUDGET PROCESS AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

The Chicago Park District's annual budget process offers a public hearing, an online forum for input, and a vote at an open board meeting. It is questionable whether there is adequate space for resident input or sufficient power and influence ascribed to their input. Many park activists are unaware that the online forums exist or how they would have access them and they face barriers to attending the public meetings.

- **The Chicago Park District should actively engage park stakeholders across the city in the budgeting process, particularly with the Capital Improvement Projects. Efforts should be made to understand and address any barriers to participation from historically disenfranchised populations. What will you do to help the Chicago Park District find ways to extend more budgetary control to the public and incorporate community participation into their annual budgets?**
 - Community oversight creates a sense of community ownership and as communities feel more ownership over their parks, I believe that utilization of the parks will also increase.
- **Each year, the Park District accepts submissions for capital improvement requests from a variety of sources. More than one in three requests from elected officials are approved, while**



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only about one in five requests from the public are approved. As an Alderman, how would you use your influence to support capital improvement requests for parks in your ward and across the city?

- In our ward, I have supported our many green space and park initiatives through our Participatory Budget process. I have also worked to secure improvements to our schools playgrounds and green spaces through use of TIF funds from the one active TIF in my ward. On a city level, I have fought for city budgets that fully fund our public resources through new progressive revenue streams and will continue that fight.
- **Park Advisory Councils have advocated for Menu Money, Tax Increment Financing District Funding, Capital Improvement Programs, Open Space Impact Fees, and Special Service Area Program Funding as resources to supplement Park District funding. As Alderman you have access to and influence over a variety of city funding streams to support projects in your ward. How will you use your influence to support investment and improvement of parks in your ward and the city? What funding priorities would you promote?**
 - Through our PB process. I do my best not to influence the project submission and development phase since I want the projects which get funded to be as much a reflection of the will of the community as possible.

RESPONSE BUDGET PROCESS AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION:

8) PARK ACCESSIBILITY, FACILITIES, & AMENITIES

In the South and West sides of the city, larger park or natural areas are not easily accessible by public transportation. Many parks and natural areas typically lack accessibility for people with disabilities, or only a portion are accessible. While some heavily-trafficked areas like the Lakefront trail may tend to have open and clean bathrooms, many other parks have dirty, locked, or no bathroom facilities. Without access to a bathroom, the time residents can spend or activities they can engage in at a park are limited. Some parks lack lights, clear parking spaces, signs at the entrance, multi-lingual signage or signage throughout to identify elements of the park. In some cases, roads leading into parks are blocked with gates and barricades at all hours.

- **What steps will you take to ensure our parks, playlots, beaches, and trails are welcoming and accessible places for everyone?**
 - There is no excuse for our parks to be inaccessible and no excuse to block public access to our parks. I believe I am part of a movement that will be successful in this election and which can then fully fund and resource our parks. I have introduced a pilot program



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for public bathrooms that includes sufficient funding for necessary upkeep and intend to keep working to make this a city wide initiative.

- **Pet owners bring their dogs to parks, playlots, paths, and beaches across the city. Dogs can also be a barrier to other residents' enjoyment or a threat to wildlife. How will you engage with various points of views about dogs in parks?**
 - This is a SHOCKINGLY hot button issue in our ward. Dogs are often off-leash at Horner Park despite there also being a dog park. I do not support having dogs off-leash. But, I never want to resort to punitive fines and fees. I believe in calling people in, explaining the other sides' view, and appealing to them to make the community-minded decision.
- **As the Chicago Park District plans improvement and maintenance of fieldhouses, playgrounds, and other recreation facilities, how will you prioritize resources based on historic disinvestment faced by some parks and communities? How will you include the community in the decision-making process? How will a commitment to racial equity impact your actions?**
 - I will insist that underserved areas of the city receive priority. Underserved areas are, not coincidentally, also historically minority communities.
- **Field houses across the city are often closed on weekends and evenings. These closures mean people lack access to bathrooms, staff assistance or programming. Similarly, park bathrooms outside field house are often locked, or many parks have no bathroom. What will you do to make sure park field houses and the resource they provide can reach more residents?**
 - I do not believe that field houses need to be open 24 hours, but they should be open as many hours as is feasible. Public bathrooms should be available 24 hours in all parks. The fieldhouse should never contain the only bathroom in a park. I also am working, through my Treatment Not Trauma Ordinance, to establish and fund emergency drop-in centers that would provide access to bathrooms, laundry facilities, and living rooms.
- **Often, new construction developments are allowed to use developer-owned "publicly accessible" green spaces to satisfy open space requirements rather than Chicago Park District-controlled land. When private corporations dictate the development, management, and public access to green spaces, it seldom leads to park spaces desired by Chicago. These privately administered spaces are subject to different operating hours and rules than local parks. Additionally, when departments in the City government collaborate for new development or capital improvement to be "shared," the park users miss out on access or design of the space. An example is [Whitney Young's Sports Complex](#), funded entirely with tax-increment financing. What is your vision to ensuring true public access to new green spaces, facilities, or amenities that are a funded with public dollars or promise public access during construction? How will you use your position to support that vision?**



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- I agree that any green spaces and parks funded through TIF dollars or public funding should be fully open to the public.

RESPONSE PARK ACCESSIBILITY, FACILITIES, & AMENITIES:

9) PARK PROGRAMMING

Annually, more than 350,000 people participate through the Chicago Park District in thousands of sports, recreational, cultural, and environmental programs across the city. Yet the distribution of programs is often inequitable and mismatched, failing to meet the needs of local communities effectively. Even preliminary research indicates dramatic inequities across the city in the amount of programs and services offered. At times, programs feel dropped into a community without community input or research. In addition, the programs families are looking to for their health, cultural, and recreation may also be financially out of reach.

Where processes existed under the 1983 Consent Decree to ensure equitably distributed and responsive programming, many parks now lack the programs that are culturally relevant and affordable.

- **Parks can be essential resources for people of all ages in a community, especially because they offer classes, camps, pools, exercise equipment and facilities, and chances to socialize. What resources will you invest in parks to prioritize use by diverse populations – seniors, families and children, people with disabilities, and teenagers? How will you ensure park programming is culturally relevant to BIPOC communities that have experienced exclusion and disinvestment?**
 - We must engage people in these communities, ask them what they want to make our parks more inclusive and useful to them, then provide what they request.
- **What will you do to support residents and community groups to have access to park space and programming for no or low cost?**
 - I believe that park programming should be free to all, and certainly to low-income individuals and families. I would support a budget that includes sufficient funding to make that happen.
- **Parks across Chicago do not have the same access to sufficient, culturally relevant, and affordable programs or have space maintained to meet the needs of the community. What will you do to ensure equity in park programming and resources (facilities, maintenance, etc.) for parks in your ward and across Chicago, keeping in mind the historic underinvestment in West and South Side parks?**



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- Insist that programs prioritize parks on the South and West side.
- **How will you include the community in program design and program offering in their parks to make sure it is sufficient, relevant, and affordable and to proactively account for external community problems related to public safety and violence?**
 - I am always open to community involvement and input and fully believe we need to ensure that parks programming is culturally relevant, accessible, and free. I have been fighting alongside community groups to fully fund our public services and will continue to do so.

RESPONSE PARK PROGRAMMING:

10) SAFETY

Feelings of safety and security greatly shape how park spaces are experienced. While some park users feel vulnerable when parks are too empty, others want quiet, wide-open, empty spaces. Some fear gun violence, and others fear oppressive police presence. Some are worried about playground conditions, and others are worried about vandalism. Some want more lights or call boxes. All of these are important considerations as we address safety concerns.

In the summer of 2022, as a response to the death of Chicago teenager, a curfew was enacted at Millennium Park to restrict event access to the park for young residents not accompanied by an adult or attending a ticketed event. In multiple Listening Tour sessions in different parts of Chicago, we heard similar statements that represent a specific loss of access to park amenities after violence occurred in their parks. If the response to select instances of violence in parks is to close, restrict, or remove certain amenities, this seems like the beginning of a very dangerous trend of the Chicago Park District punishing entire communities for the actions of a few.

- **How will you approach safety in a way that does not unfairly punish entire communities for the behavior of the few?**
 - If there are safety issues in parks, especially if they are recurring issues, the answer is not to restrict public access to the park. The answer is to figure out what the root cause of the safety issue is and then address that issue.
- **How would you ensure residents of all ages can access public amenities while balancing concerns for public safety?**



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- Data shows that investment in programming for youth activities is a reliable way to reduce crime. We can not only make parks safe for all, we can use the parks to work to make our city safer.
- **What steps will you take or policies will you support to increase the public safety of Chicago's parks, playlots, playgrounds, paths, and beaches beyond increasing police presence?**
 - Crime stems from a lack of resources, not a lack of police. I hope to create a city government which ensures that all Chicagoans have the resources necessary to live with dignity. There is no separating public safety in the parks from public safety on the CTA or anywhere else. As we establish programs that provide resources to those in need, the parks can serve as a critical location for engaging with people and distributing resources.

RESPONSE SAFETY:

11) PARK DISTRICT OVERSIGHT

- **The Chicago Park District is not a department of the city government, but a separate governmental entity. However, the Chicago Park District's Board of Commissioners' members are nominated by the mayor and must be approved by the Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation. What policies do you support to make sure nominees have demonstrated relevant experience, background and skills sets related to parks?**
 - Relying on the Mayor is more of a hurdle than anything, in this regard. If the Mayor is looking to implement an austerity budget, their chosen Park District Commissioners will help them do that. I think the only answer is to have those positions be elected, just as we fought to get for the school board.
- **How will you use your role to provide oversight to the parks, playlots and beaches in your ward?**
 - I use every tool available to me to promote our parks and their programming. I want the communities in my ward to be as engaged as possible and to be empowered to oversee their parks.