



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Joe Dunne

Candidate for Ward #: 48

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A completed questionnaire must be received by Wednesday, January 25, to have answers distributed to our stakeholders before 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: As a long-time resident of the 48th Ward, I participated in the petition drive to save the Broadway Armory as a Park District Facility. In my previous role at the Department of Planning and Development, I coordinated the redevelopment and expansion of Fosco Park on the Near West Side. This included working with the ABLA resident community, NIA Architects, CDOT, the Chicago Park District, and other agencies to plan public improvements for the expansion of the park and construction of a new field house.

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: I do not have any specific legislation I am planning to introduce, though I am supportive of the city's plans for decarbonizing new construction buildings. In my role at Bickerdike, we are currently in the process of converting several existing buildings to all-electric and new construction projects will be all-electric to reduce the use of fossil fuel and improve indoor air-quality for our tenants.

The 48th Ward is one of the most densely populated areas in Chicago and has limited public green space. While we have convenient access to the lakefront, including Margate Park, smaller community green spaces are not abundant. As alderman, I will support local groups like the Edgewater Environmental Coalitions in efforts to enhance and beautify our neighborhood through corner gardens and parkway plantings, as well as ensuring that our existing parks and greenspaces are well maintained.

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 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: Parks are absolutely critical to healthy, thriving communities and we need to not only invest in the preservation and maintenance of our existing parks, but also the development of new



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

parkland where feasible. We also need to ensure that our park facilities are accessible. As alderman, I will prioritize the preservation of the lake front as well as investment in our existing parks, with a particular emphasis on Margate Park. Access to parkland is critical for all of our communities and we need to ensure that investments are made equitably across the city.

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 EQUITY PLAN FOR CHICAGO'S PARKS:

The Department of Housing recently conducted a Racial Equity Impact Assessment to examine the distribution of resources for the development of affordable housing throughout Chicago. I believe that a similar REIA should be conducted to guide the investment of public funds throughout the park system. All of our communities should be adequately served by safe, clean, and well-maintained public spaces.

2) GREEN SPACE AND CREATING NEW PARKS

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



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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 Lincoln Yards, neighborhood advocates have asked for the site to be used as part of a new North Branch Park



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

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?

RESPONSE GREEN SPACE AND CREATING NEW PARKS:

I believe strongly in a community-informed process for ward governance and will have open meetings to seek input on the development and planning process for new park spaces in the ward, as well as significant capital investments in our existing parks. I would like to see new investment in Margate Park and will seek community input on the development of a new field house.

As I mentioned above, I believe that decisions on the development of new green spaces should be guided by a racial equity impact assessment. This can be an important tool in ensuring that the decisions we are making today are guided by an honest review of where the city has invested, or disinvested, in communities. This can also be a tool to assist in coordinating the various groups that are stewards of green space across the city.

Opportunities for the development of new park spaces in the 48th Ward are limited, however there will be new opportunities for development along the Red Line once the Red and Purple Line Modernization Program is completed. The CTA owns several large parcels that will present the opportunity for mixed-use, transit-oriented development. As alderman, I will work with the CTA, Department of Planning, and other city agencies to ensure that public green spaces are included in the redevelopment of these properties.

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).
- 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?



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

RESPONSE LAKEFRONT:

I believe strongly that the lakefront should be a resource for all residents of the city. I believe it should be accessible and have been dismayed at the installation of parking meters throughout the lakefront where parking was previously free. The lakefront serves as the backyard for many people who live in apartment buildings and highrises and do not have private outdoor space.

As alderman, I will work to ensure that our ward has a network of interconnect bicycle lanes, particularly east-west connections which will provide access to the lake front path. I will also work with the Park District to ensure that the lake front path has adequate signage to ensure that bicyclist, pedestrians, and people using wheelchairs and other mobility supports have safe access and do not come into conflict on the paths.

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.



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

- 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?

RESPONSE ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE:

The 48th Ward is one of the most densely populated areas in Chicago and has limited public green space. While we have convenient access to the lakefront, including Margate Park, smaller community green spaces are not abundant. As alderman, I will support organizations like the Edgewater Environmental Coalition and efforts to enhance and beautify our neighborhood through corner gardens and parkway plantings, as well as ensuring that our existing parks and greenspaces are well maintained.

I will also support Chicago's Urban Forestry Advisory Board and the efforts of local organizations such as the Edgewater Historical Society and Edgewater Glen Association to catalogue and preserve mature heritage trees in our neighborhoods. As a long-time resident of the ward, I have seen many of our parkway trees grow from saplings into mature trees providing significant canopy coverage and understand the importance of their preservation. My own children play out front of our home under the shade of two maple trees planted by my family in the 1970s.

The 48th Ward has been a leader in the city in the preservation of trees and the planting of new trees. As alderman, I will continue those efforts.

WARD SPECIFIC QUESTION

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR **WARD 48**

- What will you do to support vulnerable shoreline communities from the threat of flooding, erosion, and the impact of climate change?

Rising lake levels are having a dramatic impact on the buildings and residents along Sheridan Road. While there is little we can do in the short term to address rising lake levels, there are things we can do to limit the long-term impact of rising lake levels. In order to address the risk of flooding in the short term, we need to shore up the existing revetments, which protect the buildings and shoreline. Now is a perfect time to take preventive measures to protect the shoreline, as the lake level is lower than it has been in recent years. Long-term resident of the area know that the lake level rises and falls in cycles, so we know that it will be high again and we need to be prepared.

As alderman, I will work with Congresswoman Schakowsky to ensure that the Army Corps of Engineers completes their assessment of the shoreline and is adequately funded to implement the recommended work to protect the shoreline from storm damage and erosion.



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

5) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARK ADVISORY COUNCILS

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?
- 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?
- How will you support the formation or the rebuilding of Park Advisory Councils in your ward?

RESPONSE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARK ADVISORY COUNCILS:

I believe strongly in a community-informed process for ward governance. As alderman, I will work with the Park District, the Park Advisory Councils, and local community groups to ensure that our community is involved in any decisions around development, capital improvements, planning, space rentals, and park planning decisions.

As alderman, I will engage with Park Advisory Councils and my constituents via a weekly newsletter, through the existing block club networks, and via direct interaction and participation at community events. Regular town halls and community forums will also be an important part of my communication. I believe that effective communication requires more than just pushing information out via emails and newsletters, and so I will also have in-person meeting and events to make sure we are pulling in residents who may not be technologically proficient.

6) PARK PRIVATIZATION AND REVENUE



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

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.

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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

- 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?

RESPONSE PARK PRIVATIZATION AND REVENUE:

I believe strongly in community input into decisions like these. Decisions around the use of public parks by private groups need to be made through an open public process and should come before the Park District Board for approval. Ideally, there would be clearly defined community benefits in any such agreement to offset the loss of access to parks and public spaces. An open and transparent process, along with the requirement to define and include community benefits, should provide the necessary mechanisms to balance the competing interests of stakeholders. This is increasingly important when the Park District is in negotiations around large music festivals and events. Ideally, the Park District should not have to rely on revenue generating events which limit public access to the parks, however these types of events are a reality and also bring tourism dollars to the city. Again, I believe that a transparent process and defined community benefits should help to balance the interests of stakeholders.

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?
- 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 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?
- Park Advisory Councils have advocated for Menu Money, Tax Increment Financing District Funding, Capital Improvement Programs, Open Space Impact Fees, and Special Service Area



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

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?

RESPONSE BUDGET PROCESS AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION:

As alderman, I will explore participatory budgeting so that ward residents have a voice in how menu money is allocated. I believe that similar participatory opportunities can be included in the Park District budgeting process. This would require community townhalls and a framework for receiving and reviewing community input, but I don't see that as high hurdle. My priorities include allocating money towards the redevelopment of the Margate Park Field House as well as enhancing and connecting the network of bike lanes in the ward, particularly the east-west routes which connect to the lake front path.

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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

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?

- 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?

RESPONSE PARK ACCESSIBILITY, FACILITIES, & AMENITIES:

Parks should be accessible for all residents of the Chicago. As alderman I will work with Park District to ensure that accessibility is a priority at all of our local parks, playlots, and beaches. This will include exploring the options for having flexible hours at field houses, so that they can be open in the evenings and on the weekends.

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?



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

- What will you do to support residents and community groups to have access to park space and programming for no or low cost?
- 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?
- 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?

RESPONSE PARK PROGRAMMING:

Again, I believe strongly in community input into decisions like these. Local programming should be informed by local needs. I also believe that an REIA will be helpful in determining the proper allocation of resources across the city.

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?
- How would you ensure residents of all ages can access public amenities while balancing concerns for public safety?
- 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?



2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

RESPONSE SAFETY:

City government can be innovative in combating crime by implementing a multi-faceted approach that doesn't simply rely on putting more police officers on the streets or in the parks. This approach needs to include social services, housing, and economic development initiatives that target the root causes of poverty which underlie the rise in violent crime in Chicago. It also needs to include changes in the way we police different neighborhoods. Our high and low crime communities feel under policed, in part because police act differently in different parts of the city. We need to supplement police in areas where and when they are needed.

Closing down parks and public spaces, or removing amenities, is an example of how different communities are policed differently. Our public spaces should remain open and safe for community use.

As alderman, I will support funding for non-profits and community organizations that are engaged in violence reduction efforts at the local level. I will work with the Park District and other city agencies to ensure that the city's community investments are aligned to have the greatest chance for long-term success.

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?**
- How will you use your role to provide oversight to the parks, playlots and beaches in your ward?

RESPONSE PARK DISTRICT OVERSIGHT:

I believe that the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners should be comprised of people with a broad skill set, including not only background and relevant experience related to parks, but also fiscal management and oversight.

As stated above, I believe strongly in community informed governance and will seek input from residents to guide me in the oversight of our local parks, playlots, and beaches.