



P.O. BOX 476622 CHICAGO, IL 60647

## Zoning & Development Guidelines

Planning, Preservation & Development Committee

The following guidelines to promote new investment that increases our City's vitality and tax base, yet protects current residents, is compatible with existing land uses, fosters harmony and balance in our neighborhoods, celebrates our architectural heritage, and abides by the City of Chicago Zoning Ordinance are based on, and intended to be consistent with, the guidelines established by 32nd Ward Alderman Waguespack:

- **Encourage development that conforms to the existing zoning map.**

Beginning in 2000, the Mayor's Zoning Reform Commission—composed of neighborhood and civic groups, planners, architects, business executives and elected officials—conducted community meetings across the city. Over four years, it held public workshops on specific zoning issues and examined the best practices of zoning regulations. In 2004, the new City of Chicago Zoning Ordinance became law. In support of which zoning changes will be considered only rarely and under extreme circumstances. Zoning changes, should they be needed, will be made consistent with the principles articulated in these guidelines. When alternatives exist to effect a desired change, the alternative with the least adverse impact will be preferred.

- **Require strict compliance with public notice regulations.** Expect compliance with the public notice requirements for all zoning applications, including map amendments, administrative adjustments, special uses, variations and "as of right" new construction. We will establish, in conjunction with residents, business owners and local community groups, an open, unbiased and predictable process concerning new construction and renovation. This office expects effective, transparent, and fair notice to all affected parties.

- **Encourage complementary and compatible development.** This office will encourage new development that seeks to reflect the character and context of the adjacent and other buildings in the surrounding area, comparable in quality, scale, density and building materials. Split-face block, cinder block and Dryvit on exterior surfaces, and patio pits, are specifically discouraged.

- **Respect our architectural heritage.** This office will encourage the preservation, renovation and adaptive re-use of the existing building stock. Similarly, it will discourage the demolition of historically significant buildings and structurally sound housing. It also will facilitate the creation or extension of residential landmark districts if such districts meet the criteria set forth by the City of Chicago.

- **Protect property.** This office will require strict enforcement of the City of Chicago Excavation Ordinance, including its provisions regarding notice to adjacent property

owners.

- ***Protect and encourage green space and green building practices.*** To promote greening, encourage retention of rear yards that are open, permeable and green, and not replaced by garage roof decks. Discourage the loss of open yard space to enclosed connectors or breezeways between residential structures and detached garages. Support green building initiatives consistent with existing zoning.

- ***Minimize infringement upon the public way.*** Encourage development that minimizes infringement upon the public way, including balconies in the public airspace and trash receptacles on public streets, sidewalks or alleys.

- ***Support private covenants.*** Encourage the use of private, recorded agreements and covenants with local community organizations that further the goals of these guidelines. These guidelines will assist owners and developers as they consider projects in the 32nd Ward. Owners and developers will want to contact this office *early* in the planning process to schedule an appointment to discuss the scope and purpose of all proposed plans and initiatives regarding any property. All meetings will be held during regular business hours.