



CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER
CITY HALL ROOM 200
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

August 18, 2025

Honorable Brandon Johnson
Mayor – City of Chicago
City Hall, 5th Floor
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: Flash Flooding on the Southwest Side of Chicago

Mayor Johnson:

Over the last four weeks, the Southwest side of Chicago has experienced the worst flooding events in over a decade. Over three thousand families were impacted by a water & sewer system that failed to meet the moment. Thirteen days later you and Cook County both issued disaster declarations.

Unfortunately, ten days after your declaration was issued another extreme weather event again flooded communities on the Southwest side. Once more, thousands of families barely rebuilding from the first wave found themselves again flooded, in many cases worse than before, with no support or answers from City Hall as to how the City of Chicago was going to prevent this from being a recurring nightmare for so many Chicagoans.

As with private drain and lead service line replacement, we believe government intervention and support are necessary to mitigate the negative impact of future flash flooding events. A municipal-funded “back flow” valve installation program is the easiest, most cost-effective way to minimize the damage of future flooding catastrophes. For owner-occupied properties, your administration must immediately create & manage a residential and small-unit building installation program. The cost per location would be approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 (private drain program costs approximately \$10,000 per awardee).

The Water Fund FY2025 Appropriation is \$916,674,508 and the Sewer Fund FY2025 Appropriation is \$453,174,681. Finance General is allotted \$537,901,015

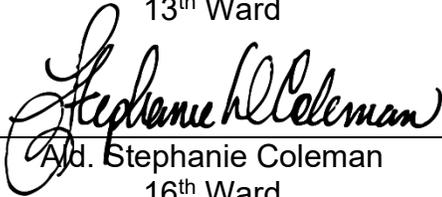
Southwest Chicago – 2

and \$335,593,592 respectively. Even if the city were to offer this new program to all properties that reported flooding, the total program cost would be between \$33-49 Million – not an extraordinary sum of money considering both the totality of the funds available as well the financial and economic toll of constant flash flooding takes on our neighborhoods.

Now is the time for swift and equitable action. We look forward to discussing this with you at your earliest opportunity. On behalf of the Southwest side of the City of Chicago,



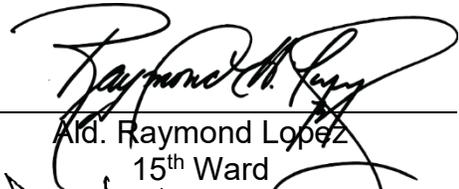
Ald. Marty Quinn
13th Ward



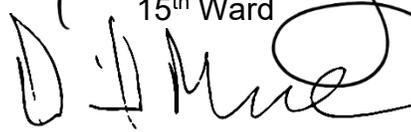
Ald. Stephanie Coleman
16th Ward



Ald. Derrick Curtis
18th Ward



Ald. Raymond Lopez
15th Ward



Ald. David Moore
17th Ward



Ald. Silvana Tabares
23rd Ward