



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-21

STREAMLINING CITY DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

WHEREAS, Chicago is grappling with an affordable housing shortage and disinvested business corridors disproportionately located on the South and West sides, both resulting in significant inequities in health, wealth, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago ("City") must address these historic and present-day inequalities with a multi-faceted and long-term approach that reverses entrenched patterns of disinvestment, embraces equitable, community-driven development, reinforces access to affordable and high-quality housing, and allows Chicago to be an attractive business destination for small businesses, entrepreneurs, developers, and corporations; and

WHEREAS, the City strives for a future in which there is an abundance of housing and commercial development of all types in all community areas, giving Chicagoans a diverse supply of high-quality and affordable options in which to live and vibrant business corridors for residents in which to work and play; and

WHEREAS, the City currently has in place longstanding development-related administrative policies and processes, which significantly influence the types, kinds, and locations of developments built; and

WHEREAS, these policies and processes were developed with the intent of advancing resident interests, public health, efficient urban layout, and high-quality design; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that some of these policies and processes, although well-intentioned, can hinder the speed and economy of development; and

WHEREAS, the City has a responsibility to regularly revisit and improve said policies and processes to ensure efficiency and reduce complexity for developers and entrepreneurs without sacrificing the health and safety of builders or residents; and

WHEREAS, the City aims to create processes that are efficient, accessible, equitable, and designed with the end user in mind; and

WHEREAS, the City has made a variety of administrative, programmatic, and policy efforts in recent years and introduced recent improvements into the City Council for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the City should prioritize process improvement as an integral part of a housing and broader neighborhood development strategy; now; therefore,

I, Brandon Johnson, Mayor of the City of Chicago, do hereby order as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are incorporated into and made an integral part of this Order.

Section 2. On or before 90 days after the effective date of this Order, all Relevant Departments (as defined below) shall do the following:

- a. Identify key barriers within the housing and commercial development process that lead to increased timelines, increased costs, and potential uncertainty. Barrier areas should include, but are not limited to, building permits, design reviews, environmental reviews, zoning, and financing.
- b. Recommend solutions to accelerate approvals that facilitate housing and commercial development, especially developments that create affordable housing, rebuild disinvested neighborhood corridors, and/or return vacant land to productive use.
- c. Outline implementation plans with key milestones and metrics for success.
- d. Submit an internal report to the Deputy Mayor of Business and Neighborhood Development on proposed changes to streamline processes and incentivize the creation of more housing and commercial development.

The Relevant Departments are:

- Department of Assets, Information and Services (AIS)
- Department of Buildings (DOB)
- Department of Business Affairs & Consumer Protections (BACP)
- Department of Environment (DOE)
- Department of Finance (DOF)
- Department of Housing (DOH)
- Department of Law (DOL)
- Department of Planning & Development (DPD)
- Department of Procurement Services (DPS)
- Department of Technology and Innovation (DTI)
- Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Department of Water Management (DWM)
- Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD)
- Office of Budget and Management (OBM)

Section 3. A Director of Process Improvement is hereby established in the Mayor's Office. This position will report to the Deputy Mayor of Business and Neighborhood Development and have such staff as are necessary for effective functioning of the work as it evolves.


Section 4. The role of the Director of Process Improvement will be to:

- Identify barriers within City processes that cause development approval delays
- Generate short- and long-term programmatic and policy solutions to streamline and expedite development approvals.
- Manage implementation with City departments and sister agencies, including coordinating and facilitating internal and external working groups as needed.
- Monitor plan goals and foster accountability through regular reporting and review of performance measures.
- Develop a broader framework for process improvement across other issue areas and City departments, with a clearly defined set of goals, strategies, and performance measures.
- Build relationships across City departments and sectors.

Section 5. No less than 30 days after receipt of internal reports from the Relevant Departments specified in Section 2, the Director of Process Improvement and the Deputy Mayor of Business and Neighborhood Development shall release a public report that collates and highlights opportunities for action.

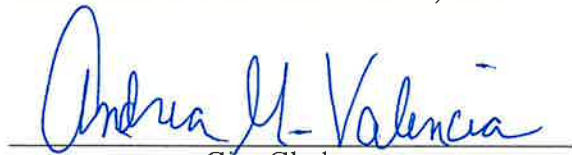
Section 6. The Director of Process Improvement and the Deputy Mayor of Business and Neighborhood Development shall provide periodic recommendations to the Mayor with proposals for inclusion in upcoming budgets on programs, policies, and expenditures to support expedited housing and commercial development.

Section 7. This Order will take effect upon its execution and filing with the City Clerk.



Mayor

Received and filed December 11, 2023



City Clerk

Chicago City Clerk-Council Dpt.
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