



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LANDMARK STATUS APPROVED FOR SOUTHWEST SIDE DEPARTMENT STORE, NORTH SIDE  
THEATRE BUILDING**

A former department store in Back of the Yards and a theater in Portage Park were approved as official City of Chicago landmarks today by the Chicago City Council and Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Each building was recommended for landmark status by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks last month.

**Oppenheimer-Goldblatt Bros. Department Store Building**

*4700 S. Ashland Ave.*

Designed by Alfred S. Alschuler and built by the J. Oppenheimer & Co. department store chain, the block-long department store building has anchored the 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Ashland Avenue commercial district since 1915. The building is clad in white-glazed terra-cotta with a band of large storefront windows at street level. The building was purchased in 1928 by the Goldblatt Brothers, which pioneered the retail sales of discount merchandise to working-class shoppers. After the Goldblatt's store closed in 2003, the building was used for public storage. The upper floors are currently being redeveloped as 101 units of senior housing by Goldblatt Senior Living LLC. The designation will affect all exterior elevations of the building including rooflines.

**Portage Park Theatre Building**

*4042-60 N. Milwaukee Ave., 4905-15 W. Cuyler Ave.*

Completed in 1920, the mixed-use structure was designed by Linley R. Rowe in association with the architectural firm of Fridstein & Co. The three-story building consists of a theater with street-level storefronts and apartments on the second and third floors, typifying the mixed-use nature of 1920s-era movie theater buildings in local neighborhoods. The Portage is also an example of a

121 NORTH LASALLE STREET, ROOM 507, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

“transitional” movie theater from the end of World War I, when movie palaces were becoming more elaborate. It is one of the last existing theaters associated with the Ascher Brothers, which operated one of the largest theatre chains in Chicago during the 1920s. The auditorium continues to operate as a movie theater. The designation will affect all exterior building elevations, the theater auditorium, and theater lobbies.

Landmarks designated by City Council are protected from significant alteration or demolition.

# # #

### **PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR SOUTH LOOP, SOUTH SIDE**

Parks proposals introduced to City Council today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel will upgrade a neighborhood field house, preserve a local nature center, and provide for new playground equipment at three South Side locations.

#### **Eden Place Nature Center**

*4300 block of South Stewart Avenue*

Eleven City-owned parcels at the southwest corner of West 43<sup>rd</sup> Place and South Stewart Avenue will be sold to Fuller Park Community Development Corp. to ensure the long-term public use of the Eden Place Nature Center, a 1.4-acre urban oasis that originally opened in 2001. The bulk of the nature center, which includes a native prairie, wetlands, a greenhouse and community garden, is already owned by the corporation. The parcels will be sold to the group for \$1 each.

#### **Chicago Women’s Park & Gardens**

*1801 S. Indiana Ave.*

The field house at the Chicago Women’s Park & Gardens will be renovated through \$3.8 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance. The three-story structure will receive a new roof, ventilation systems, and masonry repairs, as well as a new fitness center, activity rooms, office space, and restrooms. The upgrades will be in addition to \$1.1 million allocated by the Chicago Park District for renovations to the first floor.

#### **Coliseum Park**

*1466 S. Wabash Ave.*

The .6-acre Coliseum Park will be improved with new playground equipment, an expanded dog area, and new landscape upgrades through \$500,000 in TIF assistance. The park is named in honor of the Coliseum, an arena and exhibition hall that was a defining feature of South Wabash Avenue until 1982.

# # #

## **AFFORDABLE SENIOR RENTAL BUILDING PROPOSED FOR HUMBOLDT PARK**

Financial measures approved today by City Council by Mayor Rahm Emanuel will support the development of a 72-unit affordable senior apartment building in Humboldt Park.

The \$19.4 million complex proposed for the long-vacant southeast corner of North Avenue and Pulaski Road will include apartments for seniors aged 55 and older earning up to 80 percent of area median income.

“Affordable senior housing is an essential component of any neighborhood, and this project will provide a convenient, walkable location that is close to public transit and other neighborhood amenities,” Mayor Rahm Emanuel said.

The City will provide \$4 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF), a \$3.5 million loan, and \$1 million in Low Income Housing Tax Credits that will generate \$10.1 million in equity for the project. Additional City support will include \$363,000 in donations tax credit equity made possible by the sale of the half-acre site, currently owned by the City, for \$1.

To be developed by North and Pulaski Elderly Limited Partnership Corp., the five-story building will include a mix of one- and two-bedroom apartments as well as an exercise room, laundry facilities and management offices. The development partnership includes U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corp. and Hispanic Housing Development Corp.

A \$544,000 allocation by the Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund will reduce rents on six of the units to support tenants earning less than 30 percent of area median income.

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