



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 21, 2015

Mayor's Press Office  
(312) 744-3334  
[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

**MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES ORDINANCE  
TO SUPPORT, BOLSTER CHICAGO'S BIDS FOR OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY**

Based on the strong support heard at Chicago Park District community meetings last week and the Barack Obama Foundation's desire for the City of Chicago to secure all of the proposed Obama Library sites, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and 42 aldermen today introduced an ordinance that would allow for the transfer of parcels of parkland to the City if the Washington or Jackson Park sites are chosen by the Foundation.

"The Obama Library belongs in Chicago, and I remain committed to bringing the library to our great City," said Mayor Emanuel. "This ordinance will help as we continue to work with the Foundation and both Chicago universities to ensure that the City's bids remain competitive."

Earlier this month, the Foundation raised concerns about the proposals of both the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and the University of Chicago (U of C). The response from U of C requires the City's intervention.

The ordinance has been drafted based on community feedback gathered at the public meetings. The land will always remain in public control and will revert back to the Park District at the end of its use for the presidential library. The ordinance makes it clear that the footprint of the library is expected to cover less than five acres, with the remaining acreage to be maintained as parkland in the Olmsted tradition. It also states that a group of community and open space leaders will be appointed to identify land that can be converted to green space to make up for any land covered by the building and propose enhancements to the Olmsted park system.

The Park District will consider the same agreement at its February 11 board meeting.

###