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April 12, 2024

City of Chicago  
Committee on Finance  
121 N. LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60602

**Re: Public Comment – Issuance of General Obligation Bonds  
(SO2024-0007838)**

Dear Chairwoman Dowell:

REALTORS® have been fighting for housing affordability and equitability for decades. Our 17,000 members throughout the city have committed their lives to helping everyone achieve the American Dream of homeownership. That is why we are pleased to be able to support Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's bond proposal.

The proposal to allocate tax revenues, from expiring Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts is a reasonable approach to funding the City's critical housing programs. We recognize in particular the planning, which does not rely on additional property taxes to execute.

With this proposal comes a long-term funding source for the City's Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Housing. However, that promise reemphasizes the importance of accountability and transparency in City decision-making.

It is our belief that for this proposal to be successful, the City will need to build on the foundation of support it has received for this plan from all stakeholders, to engage all voices and opinions. For our part, the REALTOR® community is ready and willing to be a full participant in this endeavor to enhance our city.

Sincerely,

Matt Silver  
President, Illinois REALTORS®