



# BRENDAN REILLY

ALDERMAN—42ND WARD

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February 29, 2008

Arnold L. Randall  
Commissioner  
Department of Planning and Development  
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 501  
Chicago, IL 60602

### **Re: Fort Dearborn Post Office Site and the Central Area Action Plan**

Dear Commissioner Randall:

I am writing to request a meeting with you and any other appropriate city departments, to discuss the status of the Fort Dearborn Post Office site and its future, as it relates to the City of Chicago's Central Area Action Plan. Staff from the Department of Planning and Development presented the Central Area Action Plan to me on June 14, 2007.

As you know, one of the three objectives of the Central Area Plan is creating a "central Area that is focused on its waterfronts and open spaces." The Plan states that the city is obliged to "create the next generation of urban & neighborhood parks to complete the open space framework of the Central Area."

According to the "Park Projects" section of the Plan, "Fort Dearborn Park" is highlighted and the Plan describes the phase-out and relocation of the Post Office, to allow for the creation of a public park space. Because "implementation responsibility" for the Central Area Plan rests with your department, I am offering you my assistance with this effort.

This particular area of downtown Chicago has almost no green, public open space to serve our rapidly growing residential population. I would like to applaud the Department of Planning for their foresight in identifying the Fort Dearborn Post Office site as a prime opportunity for conversion into a public open space.

It is critical that my office and your department act quickly to pursue this rare open space opportunity for the City of Chicago, as the United States Postal Service has recently issued a RFP for this parcel of land. I believe that, if DPD and my office present a united front in support of securing this property for public open space, we can make this Central Area Plan commitment a reality for the people of Chicago.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience, I am eager to coordinate efforts with you on this exciting initiative. As you know, the RFP requires a response in the next month, so we will need to act quickly in order to meet that deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan Reilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brendan Reilly  
Alderman, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward