



September 2, 2009

Dear Alderman:

Yesterday's public review of the Civic Federation report of Olympic bid financing and concurrent calls for intensive council oversight should Chicago be awarded the right to host the 2016 Olympics is certainly appropriate. We recommend the oversight should include quarterly accounting of each aspect of the Memorandum of Understanding passed by the council in March.

Whereas tracking on hiring commitments for MBE/WBE for the Michael Reese contracts is already in place, we ask that you expand that accounting to include the housing elements found in the MOU, including important strategies for the preservation of affordable housing. The spirit of the 2016 Affordable Housing Subcommittee's recommendations was not exclusively about the inclusion of affordable housing in the Olympic Village, but further to extend and preserve affordable housing opportunities throughout the Olympic development areas.

As demonstrated by this week's release of DePaul University's study (["Softening Conditions in the Chicago Rental Market"](#)), affordable rental housing is a fundamental requirement for Chicagoans to succeed. The study's findings are not surprising when keeping in mind the housing trend for this decade has seen growth only in households with mortgages of over \$2000 a month when average Chicago household income is decreasing ([Chicago Rehab Network 2007 Housing Factsheet](#)).

Principles of transparency and inclusion are already a part of the Olympic spirit and the MOU between the City Council and Chicago 2016. The only way to ensure that these principles endure is through a regular tracking procedure. Alongside the Olympic community development legacy, the Chicago Rehab Network has called for a public review on the selection of the development plan for the Olympic Village ([CRN 2008 4th Quarter report](#)).

CRN has long been committed to fostering community empowerment and development without displacement, just like the hope of this Olympic movement. A transparent, accountable, and inclusive process as well as strong partnerships between the community and the Olympic organizations will create not just success in the Olympics and in the City, but excellence for both.

Sincerely,

Kevin Jackson
Executive Director, Chicago Rehab Network

The Chicago Rehab Network (CRN) is a citywide coalition of community based development organizations. Founded in 1977 by community groups seeking to pool expertise and share information, the coalition membership consists of over 40 housing organizations representing over 60 city neighborhoods. Over the years CRN's members have created tens of thousands of affordable housing units and made a visible impact on some of Chicago's most disinvested communities, while preserving affordable housing in some of its most rapidly gentrifying ones.