

RESOLUTION ON THE OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER'S PROPOSED PARKING GARAGE AND BUS STAGING AREA ON THE MIDWAY PLAISANCE

WHEREAS, the Midway Plaisance (“the Midway”) is an historic park on the South Side of Chicago on the National Register of Historic Places, designed in 1871 by the renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, and

WHEREAS, the Midway is a vital connection between Jackson Park and Washington Park, also historic parks designed by Olmsted, a connection which would be severed by any taking of the Midway for private use, and

WHEREAS, the Midway is used extensively by residents of the Hyde Park, Woodlawn, South Shore, and Washington Park communities, and belongs to all the citizens of Chicago, and

WHEREAS, a 2000 Chicago Park District Framework Plan, which was completed with significant community input and support remains in place as a set of guiding principles for the use and protection of the Midway and does not provide for a parking garage and bus staging area, and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the Midway is being considered for a two-story parking garage and bus staging area for the proposed Obama Presidential Center (OPC) in Jackson Park, and

WHEREAS, the taking of public open space for the benefit of a private entity is unacceptable, and

WHEREAS, the building of such a structure would have a significant negative impact on the Midway and lead to pollution, traffic congestion, and critical public safety concerns, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midway Plaisance Advisory Council:

- strongly opposes the proposed garage and bus staging area on the Midway,
- strongly opposes any transfer of Midway land to private entities, and
- strongly urges any action taken with regard to parking for the OPC engage neighboring communities and take into account the economic impact on them to serve the stated mission of the Obama Foundation.

Adopted on October 18, 2017