

# Opportunity/Questionnaire from the Grand Boulevard Advisory Council

<p><b>Arts &amp; Parks</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>If elected, what will be your major initiatives for the 4th Ward/Grand Boulevard area with regards to the area Parks and programs throughout the ward, making sure under-resourced parks like Mandrake Park, gets more attention?</b></li> </ul> <p>We've invested \$340,000 into a new neighborhood park play lot for children, which was selected by the membership of the grand boulevard advisory council. Additionally, in coordination with this council, we have selected the site for a future dog park in the Grand Boulevard community.</p> <p>I will ensure we invest more money in upgrading the park district facility. First, Mandrake park fieldhouse needs investment in infrastructure and repair. Subsequently, I would prioritize outdoor workout equipment. additional outdoor lighting and more sustainable parking options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>What is your vision for elevating arts &amp; culture in the 4th ward, more so in the Grand Boulevard area?</b></li> </ul> <p>Tapping into the creative spaces we now have, I would like to bring more festivals and cultural events to continue to build our burgeoning art community.</p>
<p><b>Block Club</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>We hear talk about building your blocks, building block clubs and re-engaging in the sense of community. How will your administration support that and make sure it happens?</b></li> </ul> <p>I have worked hard to establish local community advisory councils to strengthen community bonds and voices. We invited every block club lead and president to join our advisory councils. We will continue to support efforts to increase resources for these blocks through non-profit partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>What has been your involvement in block clubs and what is your vision forward?</b></li> </ul> <p>Growing up, my parents organized neighborhood block parties and events. This established a sense of community and belonging among neighbors. Folks would more readily collaborate on issues of conflict and community beautification.</p> <p>I'll ensure my office proactively educates residents on all the government programs and resources available to support local efforts to build and grow block clubs. I will offer workshops and educational programming on our aldermanic website to facilitate this.</p>

<p><b>Community Safety</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Do you support re-allocating police funds to other efforts that address the root causes of crime in order to end community violence? If yes, which efforts would you re-allocate those funds to and why? If no, please explain your rationale.</b></li> </ul> <p>I'm proud of our work to shift public safety resources to violence interruption and mental health first response. We must continue to invest in addressing the root causes of violence and a holistic approaches to community safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>How would you use the CPD District's Annual Strategic Plan to hold CPD accountable for utilizing the identified resources to address the noted problem areas discussed in the plan? How would you notify your constituents about your periodic reviews of this plan and the action steps you intend, if any, to take subsequent to each review?</b></li> </ul> <p>I believe the police advisory councils, should have the authority to have direct input on the strategic plan. I believe the advisory council should be empowered to evaluate and hold CPD accountable. Updates about the strategic plan will be sent out in our weekly newsletter, posted on our website, distributed through social and traditional media outlets. Additionally, I will host townhalls should major issues arise to facilitate more community input and solution-making.</p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>How will you engage the community in deciding what/how is developed in our community for both residential and commercial projects?</b></li> </ul> <p>I am proud of the community advisory councils we have created to ensure that residents have a say in local matters and employ community-driven zoning. I will continue to support and uplift local advisory councils as a means to amplify residents' voices. We will empower the grand boulevard advisory council to influence all development matters in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>What are your priorities for development in the Ward? What parts of the Ward? What types of projects?</b></li> </ul> <p>The 4th Ward is poised to be a leader in equitable economic development. From the repurposing of the Michael Reese site in the Bronzeville community to the renaissance at Cottage Grove retail corridor between 43rd and 47th streets, I've helped make these projects possible through municipal investments that ensure we create and maintain a sustainable community for all. While we have welcomed developers that are rejuvenating our neighborhoods, we must ensure we create pathways for residents to take advantage of the land in the community and direction for how to obtain a city lot.</p>

<p><b>Economic Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>What are your plans for investing in and/or increasing programs and job opportunities for youth and under-employed constituents in the community?</b></li> </ul> <p>In my experience, the best way to facilitate the creation and expansion of effective youth programming for workforce development we must work with local youth leaders and engagement practitioners. We've seen an incredible trend of entrepanuership among our young people and need more programs that facilitate and support their development as blossoming business leaders.</p> <p>I will continue to fight to improve all our residents' economic conditions, which means we need stronger schools, more diverse workforce development programs, and economic development that creates good-paying local jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>What are your views on requiring community benefits agreements to promote 4th Ward hiring and community investment in relation to commercial developments?</b></li> </ul> <p>For any project that involves public land or resources, we must have some form of a community benefits agreement to ensure local residents' voices are heard, and needs are met.</p>
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How do you intend to build stronger collaboration between the area schools, with local businesses and their surrounding communities.</li> </ul> <p>The work of <a href="#">Polished Pebbles</a> is a fantastic example of strengthening our community through local stakeholder collaboration. Polish Pebbles works with Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Housing Authority communities, and the University of Chicago, in partnerships with businesses such as iHeart Radio, Bloomingdale's, Nordstrom, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, ThoughtWorks, The Chicago Sky, the University of Chicago, Microsoft, Ann Taylor, and ComEd, to increase the communication skills and employ-ability of young women for the future workplace. As we create more civic collaboration among all our community stakeholders, in service to our youth, we will see increased well-being, safety, and economic development in our community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How do you intend to use your budget to provide much needed support to our area schools.</li> </ul> <p>I will be a fierce advocate in Springfield to fix our school funding formula, so our schools receive more equitable support on the state level and less reliance on local property taxes. This will both stabalize our education budgets and also ensure that every dollar spent on a students education on the northside, matches the dollar spent on southside students.</p>

<b>Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● How will you include your local constituents in the process for deciding where funds go for local infrastructure project?</li></ul> <p>Our community advisory councils currently play this role. I will work to continue to grow and expand these programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Where are YOUR priorities when it comes to infrastructure? What part of the ward? What specific types of infrastructure projects do you foresee.</li></ul> <p>We must update our infrastructure to have a greater quality of life for our families in the ward. This includes replacing the lead pipes in our community, which impacts the growth and development of our youngest community members, improving lighting infrastructure affecting public safety, and repairing streets and sidewalks to enhance accessibility and beautification in our neighborhoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● We need a comprehensive study of the growth in these areas to ensure city planning strikes a balance between meeting the needs of the local community and serving the entire city.</li></ul> <p>We need to work with our local university to conduct comprehensive studies of all our neighborhoods so we can better strike a balance between meeting the needs of the local community and serving the entire city. I wholeheartedly support research-based city planning.</p>
-----------------------	--