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MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN CHICAGO'S 28TH WARD DURING 'A DAY IN THE WARD' EVENT

Nearly \$385 million has been invested in 28th Ward infrastructure, including additional green investments and neighborhood improvement projects.

CHICAGO – Today, Mayor Brandon Johnson joined 28th Ward Alderman Jason Ervin and community leaders in Chicago's 28th Ward for the latest installment in the "Day in the Ward" series. The event provided an opportunity for Mayor Johnson and members of his administration to engage directly with local officials, businesses, faith leaders, and residents to discuss ongoing initiatives and future plans for the community.

"The 28th Ward is a prime example of how targeted investments in infrastructure, youth programming, and community safety can transform neighborhoods," said **Mayor Brandon Johnson**. We are committed to ensuring that every corner of Chicago, including historically disinvested areas, receives the resources necessary to thrive."

The day began with a visit to Sweet Maple Café, where Mayor Johnson met with owner Lori Hynson to discuss the successes and needs of local businesses. The mayor and his team then visited Legler Library, where the Chicago Department of Public Health has co-located mental health services. Discussions focused on expanding mental health resources and addressing the opioid crisis affecting the 28th Ward and other communities across the city.

At St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Mayor Johnson convened with community partners and leaders to discuss a holistic approach to community safety. Emphasizing that safety extends beyond policing, he highlighted the importance of addressing historical disinvestment and revitalizing neighborhoods.

Key investments and initiatives announced include:

- **Youth Empowerment**



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This summer, 27,793 young people aged 14-24 were employed through One Summer Chicago (OSC), a 12% increase from last year. The 28th Ward accounted for 1,055 of these hires.

- **Infrastructure Improvements**

Nearly \$385 million has been invested in the 28th Ward's infrastructure. Over the summer, the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation planted 354 trees, cleaned 639 vacant lots, and completed 1,192 neighborhood improvement projects. The CTA is planning a new elevator at the Pulaski Blue Line Station and restoring tracks on the Lake Street Line and Forest Park. Additionally, the Chicago Department of Water Management is undertaking a \$5 million lead service line replacement and restoration program.

- **Business and Housing Development**

Significant investments are strengthening local neighborhoods, including the \$250 million Metro Edge data center in the Illinois Medical District and nearly \$200,000 awarded to local businesses through the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection's Good Food Fund. The Department of Planning and Development has invested more than \$24 million in physical improvements, and more than 600 new affordable housing units are either under construction or in development through the Department of Housing and the Chicago Housing Authority.

"The investments announced today represent a significant step forward for the 28th Ward," said **28th Ward Alderman Jason Ervin**. "By prioritizing infrastructure improvements and opportunities for our youth, we are building a brighter, more equitable future for our community."

As part of the commitment to community empowerment, Mayor Johnson announced a \$250,000 Community Convener Grant to the Westside NAACP, led by President Karl A. Brinson, through the administration's People's Plan for Community Safety.

"The Westside NAACP is honored to partner with the City of Chicago in advancing community safety and empowerment," said **NAACP President Karl A. Brinson**. "This grant will help us continue our mission to uplift and strengthen the lives of residents on the West Side."



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These investments underscore the City's dedication to fostering growth, safety, and equity across all neighborhoods, especially in areas that have historically lacked such resources. Mayor Johnson and his administration will continue to work closely with community partners to ensure that Chicago remains a city where every resident can thrive.

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