

Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives
1000 E 111th St
10th FL
Chicago, IL 60628

November 14, 2022

Dear Commissioners of the Chicago Plan Commission,

As President of Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of the Roseland Community Medical District Master Plan by the Chicago Plan Commission. This Master plan will establish a framework for what we hope to be a catalytic approach to creating a healthy vibrant neighborhood. This plan is needed now more than ever. There is no neighborhood in Chicago that has suffered more during the pandemic and has had the health disparities and inequities exposed more than Roseland. As we look to recover and rise out of the devastation that COVID has left behind, we need a creative comprehensive strategy that puts health equity first while creating vast economic development opportunities. The Roseland Medical District Master Plan is that strategy. It is the roadmap that is needed to restore the fabric of the great community of Roseland.

The development of this plan can be contributed to the extensive community engagement efforts over the last year. This engagement has involved dozens of community meetings, stakeholder interviews, surveys, and focus groups all with the intent of providing greater access to health care and improving health outcomes for residents of the Far South Side. Under the leadership of the Medical District Commission, the New Roseland Community Hospital Board of Directors, large and small network health care providers, the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD), the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), and the CTA Red Line Extension (RLE) Transit-Supportive Development Plan team, the plan is a great example of a collaborative effort between local government, civic leaders and community stakeholders.

I strongly encourage the Chicago Plan Commission to pass the Roseland Community Medical District Master Plan. The passage of this plan is a critical step in addressing the inequities that have plagued this region for decades that include the lack of access to quality health care services, jobs, affordable housing, fresh food, and other vital needs. This plan is desperately needed to restore and revitalize Roseland and the communities of the greater Far South Side. The time to act is now!

Sincerely,

David Doig
President
Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives