

October 8, 2021

The Honorable Bob Menendez  
Chair  
Foreign Relations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Risch  
Ranking Member  
Foreign Relations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Supporting President Joseph R. Biden's Nomination of Rahm Emanuel for  
United States Ambassador to Japan

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Risch:

We write today in support of President Joseph R. Biden's nomination of former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel for Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan.

As leaders of the Chicago City Council, having worked alongside Mayor Rahm Emanuel during his eight years of service to the City of Chicago—a city with its own spot on the international stage—we are certain that his service as Ambassador to Japan will provide America with a committed and loyal ally. We have seen firsthand his passion for all people of Chicago and his dedication to public service.

As Mayor, Rahm Emanuel was committed to every community in Chicago—especially those that lacked representation. He created the Neighborhood Opportunity Fund (NOF), which leveraged downtown growth to make direct investments in commercial corridors across the city's South, West and Southwest Side neighborhoods—a fund that lifted up entrepreneurs of color, who make up 75 percent of the recipients. He worked to bring the first Whole Foods grocery store to the South Side community of Englewood, eliminating a food desert that deprived families of fresh produce and healthy foods.

Mayor Emanuel supported numerous other projects that provided economic support and employment opportunities to Chicago's South and West Side communities. One such project, the \$9 million Carter G. Woodson Regional Library renovation, not only served as a community hub for South Side residents but is also home to one of the largest collections of African American historical documents in the country. On the West Side in Addams/Merrill Park, he led the development of the Exelon Student Recreation Center. He also spearheaded the creation of The Hatchery, a food incubator that helps Chicago entrepreneurs build and grow their businesses.

Mayor Emanuel's efforts to create a longer school day and school year added up to four more years of valuable class time for Chicago's students. He achieved record investments in Chicago

Public Schools (CPS) and fought for free universal full-day pre-kindergarten and free community college for hardworking CPS graduates.

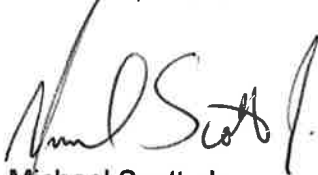
Prior to Mayor Emanuel's election, Chicago's infrastructure suffered from years of neglect. He approached the problem innovatively, saving \$75 million dollars in costs when rebuilding the south branch of the Chicago Transit Authority Red Line and investing those savings into enhancing stations along the line, turning many into places where communities could find inspiration in art and togetherness. He also invested \$35 billion dollars in construction and renovation plans for schools, parks, transit and water/sewer main replacement, creating an estimated 150,000 jobs—many of which were good-paying union jobs.

Mayor Emanuel's decades of public service, as well as his energy and tenacity for tirelessly representing the interests of his constituents, have prepared him well for this important mission on behalf of the United States. There are few nominees more qualified or committed to the President's goal of returning America to the world stage in a position of strength and moral leadership. We urge the Senate to approve his nomination and give our country a dedicated leader who will serve us all in our strategically important ally of Japan.

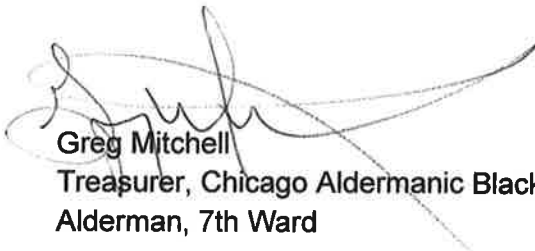
Sincerely,



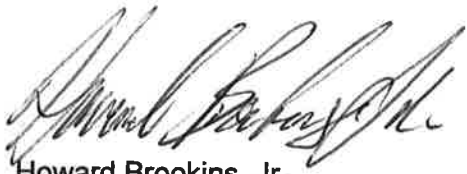
Jason C. Ervin  
Chairman, Chicago Aldermanic Black Caucus  
Alderman, 28th Ward



Michael Scott, Jr.  
Secretary, Chicago Aldermanic Black Caucus  
Alderman, 24th Ward



Greg Mitchell  
Treasurer, Chicago Aldermanic Black Caucus  
Alderman, 7th Ward



Howard Brookins, Jr.  
Former Chairman Chicago Aldermanic Black Caucus  
Alderman, 21st Ward



Michelle Harris  
Executive Committee, Chicago Aldermanic Black Caucus  
Alderman, 8th Ward



Stephanie Coleman  
Executive Committee, Chicago Aldermanic Black Caucus  
Alderman, 16th Ward



Walter Burnett, Jr.  
Alderman, 27th Ward



Emma Mitts  
Alderman, 37th Ward



Anthony Beale  
Alderman, 9th Ward