

August 17, 2023

Chicago Plan Commission (CPC) Meeting  
Public Comment on the Earle School LLC Project Application

Prepared by: Sustainable Englewood Initiatives (SEI)

Good morning, Chicago Plan Commission Chair, Laura Flores, Vice Chair Andre Brumfield, Alderman, Departments and Sister Agency Representatives and fellow CPC members.

Sustainable Englewood Initiatives is an advocacy group working on environmental protection, economic equity, transportation strategies, social innovation, land use and zoning.

Today, we registered to witness the Earle School LLC presentation. We are interested in learning more about their client service strategy, contract compliance, government arrangements (county, state institutions), public safety (client movement), affordable housing options, sustainable solutions planning, and emergency preparedness.

Furthermore, it's our collective hope that the Plan Commission fully consider the Historic Significance of their property and the potential for landmark status. Also, the development team and the city note that emergency preparedness is a growing issue throughout the Nation and that the public and the building users will need access to the cooling and heating spaces.

In terms of housing, we would hope the development team will explore ways to accommodate "Aging Out" State Foster Care Teens. The Greater Englewood district is home to the regional State DCFS office. The community needs extended assistance to these teens in order to stabilize them into adulthood and career pathways. Their most immediate need would be affordable housing and access to higher education.

To this end, we are confident that the developer team will explore ways to accommodate the public's interest. We are confident that they would be open to expanding their ownership position (prior to the expiration date of their tax credits) and contracts in order to uplift social enterprise opportunities.

Thank you in advance Chicago Plan Commission for your directives to the project team to diversify its affordable housing and social enterprising options.

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