



FOUNDED IN 1975

Working to Keep Streeterville a Neighborhood

SOAR is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

**SOAR Testimony
850 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago Plan Commission Hearing
Thursday, June 19, 2008**

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Good afternoon. My name is Michael Kraynak. I am a member of SOAR, the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents, and co-chair of the Neighbors Action Task Force. I come before you today on behalf of SOAR in support of the changes proposed to 850 N. Lake Shore Drive. We feel that the landscape planters will enhance the pedestrian experience along Chestnut Street and the balconies planned for the west façade will not detract from the character of the building.

We thank the developer for bringing the additional benefit of senior housing in Streeterville. The opportunity for seniors to live comfortably in the area will offer them the best of urban living, and provide Streeterville with many good neighbors. We kindly request that 850 Investors, LLC further their mission, by making a contribution to a local organization providing programs for seniors. The SOAR Aging Issues Council will be able to help you identify an appropriate organization.

SOAR is grateful for the efforts of Alderman Reilly in encouraging the preservation of this historic Jarvis Hunt designed building, and to Northwestern University for recognizing and accommodating the community's interests. The home of the former Lakeshore Club has been a part of Chicago's skyline and the Streeterville landscape since it opened in 1927. It has contributed to the history, character and allure of the community and we are happy it remains. However, we are disappointed that the dramatic murals and swimming pool are not being preserved. That pool was the site of the world record swimming and training by Johnny Weissmuller, who was a 1924 and 1928 Olympic gold medal winner, setting 67 world records. As a 2016 Olympic candidate city, Chicago should do all it can to preserve this piece of Olympic history in our own front yard.

Thank you.

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