

June 27, 2017

Alderman Brendan Reilly
City Hall- Room 300
121 N LaSalle St
Chicago, Illinois 60602



Dear Alderman Reilly,

This letter is in reference to the recent shooting in Streeterville that resulted in the unfortunate death of a young woman. While we believe this is an isolated incident we also believe that the Safety of residents and visitors to Streeterville, particularly during the summer months, is a top priority and this incident has definitely affected how people are feeling about personal safety. We support your plan to increase police patrols in the neighborhood, improve lighting and close and lock the underpass gates at Ohio St and other underpasses in the area. But the underpasses aren't the only problem. The area of Ohio St and Lake Shore Drive has continued to be a problem for quite some time. Too many young people gather there on the weekends in the late evening. The weekend of the shooting there were a reported 50 plus people sitting on top of parked cars, yelling and screaming and partying and littering the area. This has been reported to SOAR by several Ohio Street residents and building managers. We feel it is our responsibility to report this to your office to see what can be done to prevent this from continuing to happen as there is no reason for these people to be disturbing the peace and threatening the safety of Streeterville residents. At one point the Saturday night of the shooting, it was reported that these individuals blocked the entrance to Lake Shore Drive from Ohio Street with their cars. We cannot allow this behavior to continue. The police were called 3 times but still this continued after they left.

Solutions in addition to the ones that you have suggested are: No parking on Ohio Street between Lake Shore and Fairbanks, or Resident permit parking only or no parking at all after 11:00 PM. As you suggested locking the gates to the underpass to and from the Ohio Street beach along Lake Shore Drive including Chicago Ave and beyond at 11:00 PM each night. We also continue to have reports of weekend party activity at the W hotel where one person rents a room and the 20-30 people go to the room to party and cause problems outside afterwards. We need to stop this activity before someone else is injured or killed. Perhaps another community meeting with building managers and residents would be in order as this shooting has caused major alarm and concern for safety in the neighborhood. Navy Pier has done a pretty good job ensuring the safety of visitors to the pier however, it all happens once people are outside of the pier. We need more police and more surveillance in the Streeterville area to prevent this type of loitering activity and threats to personal safety. We need restricted after hours parking and no loitering signs. And hotels must monitor occupancy laws for hotel room guests. We hope that you can work with the police and other city officials to help ensure the safety of Streeterville residents and visitors.

244 E. Pearson St. Suite 102
Chicago, IL 60611
o 312.280.2596
f 312.280.4631
www.soarchicago.org

Working to Keep Streeterville a Neighborhood

Thank you for your continued assistance and support.

Sincerely,



Deborah Gershbein
President, SOAR



Robert Johnson
Chair, SOAR Safety and Sound Task Force

CC: Paul Bauer 18th District Police Commander
Alderman Brian Hopkins
SOAR Board of Directors