

BRENDAN REILLY
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CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER
ALL COMMITTEES

November 1, 2022

Deborah Gershbein
President
Streeterville Organization of Active Residents
835 North Michigan Avenue, # 8032, 7th Floor
Chicago Illinois 60611

Dear Ms. Gershbein:

Thank you for your feedback regarding the Extended Outdoor Dining (EOD) Program on Clark Street. The street closure permits issued by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) are set to expire November 18th. Clark Street will be re-opened to vehicular traffic at that time. There is no pending proposal to make the closure permanent.

Thus far, I have only received a few complaints about the street closures, but have received significant positive feedback from local residents and business owners.

The city's EOD Program: used on Clark Street and on Wells Street in River North; as well as the closure on Rush Street in the Gold Coast - is credited for keeping 40 locally-owned restaurants afloat and several thousand people employed during the recent COVID crisis and ensuing economic disaster.

Mayor Lightfoot recently announced she plans to continue the EOD Program seasonally if she is re-elected next year. The Mayor made that decision unilaterally, without soliciting any input or advice from members of the Chicago City Council, including me, to make any adjustments to the Program.

The Program was a resounding success in each of the downtown EOD corridors in our ward. Thousands of tourists and neighborhood residents visited these areas because of the unique experience of dining outdoors, on streets transformed into pedestrian plazas.

That said, it is absolutely correct that the temporary casino at Medinah Temple (which I vehemently opposed) will have a significant negative impact on traffic in our neighborhood. I am currently pushing back on a flawed traffic study commissioned by Bally's and plan to work with CDOT to address those issues with a better plan.

As such, we will do a complete review of this program after the season ends on November 18th. Next Spring, once we know who our next Mayor will be, I will discuss this program with that individual.

As your Alderman, neighborhood feedback (like yours) is incredibly important to me. We will be surveying all River North neighborhood residents to gather their feedback regarding the Clark Street EOD. During my tenure, I have learned all too well that when changes occur downtown, they can evoke strong opinions.

Yours is important and I will give it its due weight when we review this program next Spring with the next Administration.

As more information becomes available, my office will communicate it through our newsletter, *Reilly Reports*. If you do not already subscribe to our e-newsletter, please email our office at office@ward42chicago.com and stay up to date on new developments in the 42nd Ward.

Thank you again for the feedback,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan Reilly". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brendan Reilly
President Pro Tempore
Alderman, 42nd Ward