



835 N Michigan Ave., Space 8032, 7th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60611

312.280.2596
soarchicago.org

Mayor Brandon Johnson
City Hall
121 N LaSalle
Chicago, IL 60602

September 5, 2023

Re: The Inn of Chicago Migrant Situation

Dear Mayor Johnson,

The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents' (SOAR) mission is to advocate for all who live in, work in, and enjoy the neighborhood and our vision is to create a vibrant and diverse Streeterville that supports a welcoming and high quality experience for all residents, business owners, workers, and visitors. Aligned with these goals, we are appalled to see how the migrant housing situation at the Inn of Chicago is deteriorating and are deeply concerned for the wellbeing of the migrants, many of them families, being housed there as well as for residents and businesses.

We know that the continuous flow of migrants into Chicago is challenging and rapidly turning into a humanitarian crisis, but we urge the City to do better to find better safer housing for these people and to ensure that the housing options provided are well planned, organized, and closely monitored over time. The Inn of Chicago prior to housing migrants had been vacant for some time and we worry that it already was not in a habitable condition. Additionally, the location is not suitable for families with children.

There have also been recent reports of rising criminal activity in the area of the Inn of Chicago, and we worry for the safety of the asylum seekers and for nearby residents and workers, many of them essential medical workers who have to commute at non-traditional working hours. We appreciate the efforts underway to bolster building security surveillance in the community and the more frequent patrols and inspections being conducted by local law enforcement, but there are ongoing concerns.

SOAR would like to see our city leaders be more transparent, clear, and communicative about the long-term plan for this humanitarian crisis. Our hope is that city departments will work together to find creative solutions with the appropriate services. We are willing to work together with the City during this stressful time and look forward to staying in close coordination with any next steps.

Deborah Gershbein
President, On behalf of the SOAR Board of Directors, Residents and visitors to Streeterville

CC: Alderman Brendan Reilly
Alderman Brian Hopkins
US Senator Dick Durbin
US Senator Tammy Duckworth
US Representative Mike Quigley
II State Senator Robert Peters
II State Representative Kam Buckner

Streeterville Organization of Active Residents