

Chairman, Members of the Zoning Committee, my name is Emily Coffey and I am the Senior Counsel and Director of Equitable Community Development and Housing at Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. Along with Legal Action Chicago and the National Housing Law Project, I represent the Chicago Housing Initiative and Lugenia Burns Hope Center in opposing the rezoning of CHA land for a Chicago Fire practice facility.

This proposal will continue patterns of economic and racial segregation, contrary to the City's obligations to comply with civil rights laws. This facility is proposed to be built on the former site of the ABLA Homes. The land is subject to a declaration of trust and to be used exclusively for public and affordable housing. As part of its Plan for Transformation, CHA displaced thousands of ABLA families with the promise they could return to the new or rehabilitated units and to their historic community. **This area offers easy access to good jobs, high quality healthcare, shopping, parks, universities, and many other amenities in Chicago's city center—access that thousands of CHA families once had but lost over the past two decades as the Plan for Transformation pushed families out to the Far South and Far West sides.**

This site used to have 3600 public housing units. The vast majority of units were torn down with the promise of replacement as mixed income housing. Yet the numbers of deeply affordable units committed to have only dwindled over time as our city faces an ever-increasing affordable housing crisis. Two decades after residents were forced out, CHA has only built 245 new public housing units and it only has approved plans to build 80 more. In 20 years. **The CHA's delays in delivering replacement units cannot serve as the basis to jettison a vital supply of coveted, available, public housing land.**

The City has a duty not to discriminate, and to comply with the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits policies and practices that have the intent or effect of discriminating against members of a protected class. It also has an obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. **This proposal would allow more than 25 acres of CHA land, located in a rapidly gentrifying community and long intended to be used as public housing—which primarily serves families of color and people with disabilities—to be leased for development by a private sports team.**

This action fails to address the ongoing needs for replacement housing in the ABLA community while offloading more than half of the remaining land available for redevelopment.

**The proposal before you today does not include the creation or funding of a single new public housing unit.** This proposal needs to be taken back to the drawing board. It does not comply with the city's obligations under civil rights law. I urge you to reject this proposal today.