



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION  
ALLIANCE

To: Alderman Harry Osterman  
Chairman, City Council Committee on Housing and Real Estate

CC: Department of Housing, Alderman Walter Burnett Jr., Alderman Matthew Martin,  
Alderman Michael Rodriguez, Alderwoman Michelle Harris, Alderman Marty Quinn,  
Alderman James Cappleman, Alderman Gregory Mitchell, Alderman David Moore,  
Alderwoman Pat Dowell, Alderman Anthony Napolitano, Alderwoman Sophia King,  
Alderman Daniel La Spata, Alderman Scott Waguespack, Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez,  
Alderwoman Carrie Austin, Alderman Roberto Maldonado, Alderman Raymond Lopez,  
Alderwoman Maria Hadden

From: Melody Geraci, Interim Executive Director, Active Transportation Alliance

Date: January 9, 2020

Re: Support for 606 Ordinance for a moratorium on demolitions and buildings permits

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I am writing to express support for a moratorium on demolitions and new building permits along the 606 Trail for 14 months. During this time, the DePaul Institute of Housing Studies, the Logan Square Neighborhood Association, and LUCHA will research policy solutions to address the housing crisis in the area around the 606 Trail and the surrounding neighborhoods. In 2016, a report from the Institute for Housing Studies showed that housing prices in the 606 West region had increased by 48.2% since breaking ground and by 9.4 percent since the trail opened.

Active Transportation Alliance advocates for walking, biking, and public transit to create healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities. We believe all Chicagoans, regardless of race or income, should be able to enjoy the benefits of walking, biking, and accessible public transportation.

Residents advocated for the 606 Trail for over a decade because of the lack of green space and it has fulfilled that promise, but green space should not mean that low-income families can no longer afford to live nearby. If we are truly committed to a Chicago where low-income families can thrive, we must stand with community residents as they look for solutions to make sure their neighborhoods remain diverse and affordable.

The declining population of Latinx residents on the northwest side, particularly in Logan Square, is well-documented. Since 2000, according to a WBEZ analysis, the Latinx population in Logan Square has fallen by more than 20,000, while the white population has grown by more than 12,000.

Demolitions of existing housing stock has been an integral cause of the disappearing affordable housing in Logan Square. Between 2006 and 2019 there were 768 demolitions in Logan Square, compared to 22 in Hermosa during the same time period. While tear downs in the other community areas peaked between 2013 and 2015, tear downs in Logan Square peaked between 2015 and 2017, the years after the 606 was built. This ordinance will give residents a chance to study the impact of demolitions further and come up with affordable housing solutions that work for everyone.