

ORDER

BE IT ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 2-102-030 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Commissioner of Transportation is directed to conduct a feasibility study and prepare conceptual design alternatives for a pedestrian-focused redesign of the public ways immediately surrounding Palmer (John McAuley) Square Park ("Palmer Square"). The study shall examine whether selected portions of those public ways can be closed to general vehicular traffic or redesigned as pedestrian-priority or shared public space while maintaining necessary emergency, service, operational, and property access.

SECTION 2. The study shall, at a minimum:

(a) evaluate alternatives that include full or partial closure of selected public ways; pedestrian-priority or shared-street designs; temporary, removable, or controlled-access barriers; and retention of one or more public ways as a primary route for emergency, service, or other authorized vehicles;

(b) evaluate the impacts of each alternative on traffic circulation and parking on adjoining streets; pedestrian and bicycle safety and connectivity; accessibility for persons with disabilities; resident, delivery, and loading access; emergency response; sanitation and snow-removal operations; park maintenance; drainage; utilities; and street lighting;

(c) identify conceptual Complete Streets and accessibility improvements for any public ways that would remain open to general vehicular traffic, and assess the compatibility of each alternative with the historic and landscape character of Palmer Square and the surrounding boulevard system; and

(d) include concept-level drawings; estimated capital, operating, and maintenance costs; potential funding sources; any subsequent ordinance or other City Council approval, City permit, intergovernmental or other agreement, or utility coordination required for implementation; proposed maintenance and operating responsibilities; and a proposed schedule for pilot or permanent implementation of each feasible alternative.

SECTION 3. The Commissioner shall conduct the study in consultation with the Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Police Department, Department of Streets and Sanitation, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Chicago Park District, other relevant City departments and agencies, affected public utilities, residents and businesses adjoining Palmer Square, and other community stakeholders. Before completing the study, the Department of Transportation shall provide the conceptual alternatives to the Chicago Fire Department for review of proposed emergency-access routes and turning movements and shall conduct at least one public meeting concerning those alternatives.

SECTION 4. No later than 180 days after the effective date of this order, the Commissioner shall submit the completed study, including conceptual design alternatives, findings, and recommendations to the Committee on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety, or its successor committee, and shall appear before the committee to present the results of the study.

SECTION 5. This order takes effect upon passage and publication.


DANIEL LA SPATA
Alderman, 1st Ward