

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) estimates that there are approximately 7,420 miles of sidewalk within the city of Chicago; and,

WHEREAS, sidewalks are a vital part of the City's infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, not all Chicagoans drive, not all Chicagoans use the CTA, and not all Chicagoans utilize bike lanes but at some point all Chicagoans utilize sidewalks to walk or roll; and,

WHEREAS, sidewalks in disrepair can be a barrier and a hazard for seniors, wheelchair and mobility device users, and people who are blind or low-vision, among others; and,

WHEREAS, the City opens applications for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Application, in which residents and the City split the cost of sidewalk repair, on one day a year; and,

WHEREAS, there were 2,253 applications to the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program on January 13th of 2025, compared to 1,849 applications on January 8th of 2024; and,

WHEREAS, discounts are available to residents who are seniors or disabled, but the approximate cost to a property owner participating in the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program of an average mid-block property will range from \$600 to \$1,500 which can be prohibitive for some residents who may want to participate in the program; and,

WHEREAS, vaulted sidewalks are ineligible for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program and are significantly more expensive to repair; and,

WHEREAS, there were 10,437 Sidewalk Inspection requests placed through 311 in 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the estimated time for completion of a 311 Sidewalk Inspection Request is 180 days; and,

WHEREAS, sidewalk repairs are an eligible project for Aldermanic Menu Funds but spending on sidewalk repairs using those funds varies greatly ward by ward; and,

WHEREAS, the number of potential miles and actual miles of sidewalk vary greatly by ward; and,

WHEREAS, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of the 2018 Regional Sidewalk Inventory illustrates disparities in the percent of streets with no sidewalk in Chicago Community Areas¹; and,

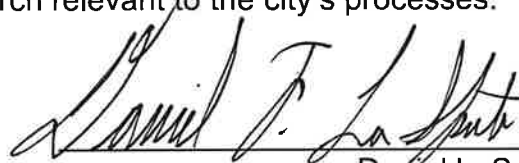
WHEREAS, in 2023, The U.S. Access Board published the final rule for Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way in the Federal Register pursuant to the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act; and,

WHEREAS, in March of 2024, the Office of the Inspector General issued an advisory Concerning the City's Complaint-Based Approach to City Services, noting that forgoing routine, proactive work in favor of responding to complaints can increase costs, actually impede the full provision of public services, and create or magnify inequities in service delivery; and,

WHEREAS, the City has seen great success in moving some service delivery from request-based to grid-based as in the case of tree trimming conducted by the Department of Streets and Sanitation; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago paid over \$1 million in law settlements related to tripping and falling on sidewalks in 2024; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby call upon the Committee on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety to hold a subject matter hearing on the City's process for surveying, categorizing, and repairing sidewalks and call upon CDOT to speak to these processes, as well as invite planning organizations, accessibility experts, and community organizations to speak to the importance of sidewalk infrastructure and research relevant to the city's processes.



Daniel LaSpata
Alderspersion, 1st Ward



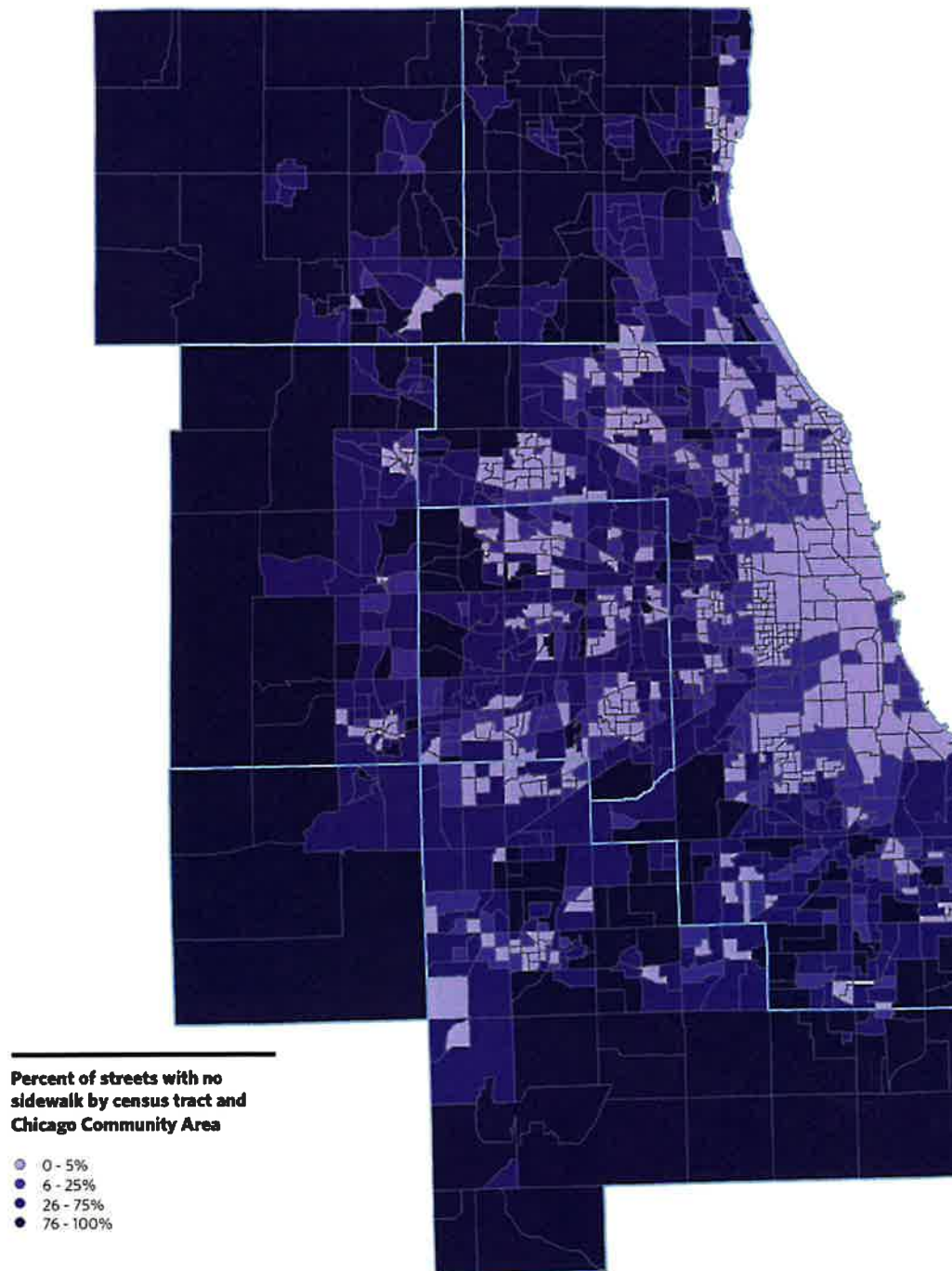
Matthew Martin
Alderspersion, 47th Ward



Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth
Alderspersion, 47th Ward

¹ See Appendix

APPENDIX



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency
for Planning analysis of the 2018 Regional
Sidewalk Inventory.