

Small businesses foster economic development, create jobs and support local communities. Policymakers should support small businesses by cutting red tape, streamlining processes, and reducing the costs of launching and expanding Chicago businesses. The following reforms have a big impact on the small business community!

### **Streamline Zoning Requirements So Businesses Can Open and Thrive**

- Many businesses that would like to open and expand in Chicago must obtain special use permits because their businesses do not fall within specific zoning designations. The process is antiquated and costly, hurting local entrepreneurs who can least afford the delays and money needed to navigate the process.
- An ordinance should be enacted that eliminates the need for businesses to obtain outdated special use permits so long as objective criteria protect residents, and the safety and integrity of neighborhoods.

### **Process Improvements**

- City inspections should be improved to ensure they are done in a consistent manner. This will provide small businesses more certainty.
- Chicago conducts debt checks when entrepreneurs are seeking a business license. These debt checks can involve small, far-removed debts the city has not attempted to collect. They can also be inaccurate. The City should no longer delay the issuance of business licenses because of these debt checks.
- The Department of Buildings should offer both online and paper options for sign permits. Ensure business owners have an advocate to ensure they receive a uniform message from various departments and staff and empower that individual with the ability to intervene when undue delays interfere with the ability of a business to open or operate.

Alderman Desmon Yancy

Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez

Alderman William Hall

Alderman Gilbert Villegas

Alderman Lamont Robinson

Alderwoman Jesse Fuentes

Alderman Anthony Quezada

Alderwoman Janette Taylor