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** Alderman **
Michele Smith
Chicago's 43rd Ward



It's Our One Year Anniversary!

Dear Friends,

May 16, 2012 marked our one year anniversary in office.

And what an exciting first year it's been. In the span of one year we fought for and saved Lincoln Park in the city-wide remap, we walked every block and alley of the 43rd Ward with the help of over 100 community volunteers to create the data for a five year plan for ward improvements, and we successfully concluded 41% more constituent service requests in our top 15 service areas from the previous year. In both the City and the Ward, I am proud of the way our office and residents worked together to meet the 43rd Ward's needs.

In the City:

- We supported and helped pass a balanced budget which prioritized responsible spending and closed a \$600 million deficit
- We worked with the Mayor and City Council to pass an Infrastructure Trust ordinance that simultaneously provides opportunities for innovative funding for the City's infrastructure and protects the taxpayers
- I authored the Iran Divestment Resolution which was unanimously passed by City Council urging the Municipal Employees Annuity and Benefit Fund to divest any investments from the Iranian energy sector

In the Ward:

- We secured temporary space for the overcrowding at Lincoln Elementary School and are working closely with CPS on a permanent solution
- We started a data-driven, transparent process for the Children's Memorial Hospital development
- We launched an e-mail alert system for street sweeping
- We informed more than 7,000 people through our acclaimed newsletter, which continues to provide a forum for constituent input and a means to disseminate information like the liquor license process and up-to-the-minute breaking news like the city-wide remap
- We founded the 43rd Ward Green Team
- We made improvements to the Green City Market and negotiated numerous neighbor to neighbor issues, including a successful plan for the new Francis

Parker field.

In honor of our one year anniversary, I asked our wonderful staff to put together some numbers that measure our accomplishments since taking office. (For a more extensive list, click [here](#).)

Since May 16th, 2011:

- Our office processed a total of 25,864 requests through the 311 system
- We had 2,400 incidents of graffiti cleaned, an astonishing 1,000 more than the previous year
- 1,241 street lights were repaired, an increase of 338 from the previous year
- 373 alley potholes were repaired, nearly double that of the previous year
- 612 trees were trimmed, 160 more than the previous year
- Over 50 requests for zoning relief came through our office and were vetted through the community
- Over 85 sidewalk cafes were reviewed and vetted through the community
- Over 13,000 books of parking stickers were sold, which means over 195,000 individual guest parking passes
- I attended over 850 meetings concerning 43rd Ward and City issues

I'm grateful to the staff for their diligent work in making sure that things get done. None of this could have been done without them - and you. Without your dedication to your community, and communication with us, we would not be able to work as effectively to meet your needs.

There's so much more to do. In the coming year, we'll be talking about pension reform, school improvements, business development and ward beautification. Thank you for such an amazing first year. Here's to the next one!



And don't forget, Monday, May 29th is Memorial Day and our office is closed. Have a great holiday weekend.

Sincerely,



Michele Smith
43rd Ward Alderman

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