**Remarks Concerning Gifting Public Land for the Obama Presidential Library**

My name is Tom Tresser and I consider myself a Public Defender who has been fighting the corrupt democratic machine and officially-sanctioned public rip offs in Chicago for 25 years. The University of Chicago has been pushing its neighbors around for 100 years. They now want Washington Park’s priceless public park land for the Obama Presidential Library. This proposal was developed in secret because they know it’s a rip-off.

The University of Chicago teaches people every day at their business school the value of money and competition but they know that FREE is better than paying. They owns DOZENS OF ACRES of property all around the proposed Washington Park site. Why can’t they use land they already own for the Obama Library.

The University of Chicago's endowment finished 2013 with a market value of $6.7 billion, including $782 million of Medical Center endowment. They made $447 million from their investments in 2013.

The University of Chicago is not broke. They can open their wallets for projects that serve them.

If they want to serve their community, build a trauma center. Train and employ the local residents. Offer scholarships to all local teens. Give the land they own to the homeless and working poor. That won’t happen because the University of Chicago knows ALL about taking but very little about giving.

To my brothers and sisters here today voicing support for the Obama library – I side with you and say = by all means build it on the south side – just NOT on public land. It’s not yours to give away. To the University of Chicago I say – Hands off our public parks. Go to the open market you cherish so much and BUY suitable land for this project or use the land you already own. To the commissioners of the Chicago Park District – you are stewards not salesmen and although the mayor appointed you – you SHOULD answer to the people of Chicago whose precious parks you hold in your hands. Stop trading away public land to private interests. EXPAND the parks and open lands, please do not DIMINISH them.

Thank you.

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