

NLCCC



North Lawndale Community
Coordinating Council

Steering Committee

Executive Sub-Committee

Rodney Brown
Dennis Deer
Valerie F. Leonard

April 18, 2016

To Whom it May Concern

Sub-Committee Chairs

Dr. Betty Allen Green
Daniel Lecour
Annamaria Leon
Sheila McNary
Brenda Palms
Richard Townsell
Roger Washington
Debra Wesley
Annetta Wilson

The North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC) wholeheartedly supports the proposed development of EATS Groceries (EATS) in the North Lawndale community. We are prepared to provide advocacy, technical assistance and community outreach that hopefully, will facilitate EATS' ability to develop a project with a broad base of support, hire local residents and contract with local vendors.

At-Large Members

Audrey Dunford
Reginald Johns
Paul Norrington
Kevin Sutton

EATS is a social enterprise committed to harnessing the power of private enterprise for the public benefit of improving health outcomes primarily in underserved and low-income communities. EATS plans to accomplish this goal by improving access to healthy foods and by providing nutrition education, cooking instruction, and health-screening services to help manage or improve conditions like obesity and Type-II Diabetes that plague these communities in greater-than-average numbers. This is particularly important in North Lawndale, which ranks #2 of 77 Chicago communities in terms of childhood obesity. The incidence of diabetes in North Lawndale is 29%, with an associated mortality rate that is 67% greater than the national average.

Ex-Officio Members

Hon. Michael Scott, Jr.
Alderman, 24th Ward

Hon. Jason Ervin
Alderman 28th Ward

Hon. Ricardo Munoz
Alderman, 22nd Ward

Hon. Robert Steele
Commissioner,
2nd District

Hon. Arthur Turner
State Representative

Hon. Patricia Van Pelt
State Senator

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Congressman
7th Congressional District

Hon. Richard Durbin
U.S. Senator

Hon. Bobbie Steele
Former President
Cook County Board

Hon. Arthur L. Turner
Former Deputy Majority Leader
Illinois House of Representatives

The North Lawndale Coordinating Council is a group of North Lawndale stakeholders, including community-based organizations, business owners, elected officials and individuals, that have come together to guide comprehensive planning and implementation in North Lawndale. We develop innovative solutions to improve the built environment and to increase the capacity of local organizations to make a positive impact on the community. The "nuts and bolts" of our work is carried out by sub-committees that are organized along various quality of life sectors. Thom is an actively engaged member of our Economic Development and Workforce Development Sub-committees, which are developing strategies to encourage local employers to hire our residents in living wage jobs that have pathways to careers.

The EATS Groceries concept fits very well within the context of our vision for North Lawndale as a healthy, vibrant community with a diversified and innovative economy, competitive work force and infrastructure that supports long term, sustainable growth. Most importantly, the required skill sets for the employment opportunities presented by EATS, LLC are a match for a significant portion of the North Lawndale workforce, many of whom are already working in service jobs or manufacturing jobs related to transportation and logistics.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 773-571-3886.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie F. Leonard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Valerie F. Leonard,
Member, Executive Sub-Committee