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CITY COUNCIL**

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FINANCE
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Re: 2020 Illinois Youth Survey

Dear Colleagues:

I am reaching out to you for support of the 2020 Illinois Youth Survey (IYS). The IYS is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to be conducted every two years, since 1990, to collect school needs, track progress towards school's physical, social and mental health goals, and evaluate student support services, with substance abuse prevention as a priority concern. The survey is given to 8th, 10th and 12th grade students across the State. This data is then used by the federal government to determine the amount of funding provided for Illinois' prevention programs.

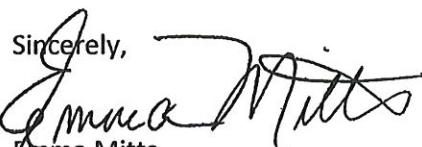
The IYS is administered by the University of Illinois, School of Social Work, Center for Research and Development (CPRD) which also serves as the evaluator of prevention programs in the State. Due to historically low participation in IYS by the City of Chicago schools, I am asking for your assistance; please find attached for your review a map which provides a visual representation of 2020 school registration, which consequently impacts dollars coming back to our neighborhoods and could indicate a loss of resources for our most vulnerable constituents.

The goal is to encourage all the schools in your Ward to participate; however, it is critically important that the sample schools randomly selected by CPRD participate. The sample school in your ward is identified on the folder label. As you may know, it is important to have effective, evidenced-based programs which are data driven if we are to have meaningful impact on drug misuse and abuse, which unfortunately ravage our neighborhoods. CPRD will provide you with aggregate survey results for your ward and to Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Network Chiefs for their Network areas.

On the westside of Chicago, with the help and support of the Westside Black Elected Officials, and The Prevention Partnership (P2) whose IYS service area includes Austin, West Lawndale, and Garfield Park, 100% registration and 90% actual participation was achieved in 2018 and similar results are expected for the 2020 IYS.

In recognition of its previous success, The Prevention Partnership inc. was asked by the IDHS to help secure the CPS sample schools. Albert Orsello, P2's Executive Director, will contact you shortly to schedule a meeting to discuss the 2020 IYS and its potential benefits for your Ward.

I urge you to meet with Mr. Orsello at your earliest possible convenience and I'm counting on your support in this very important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Emma Mitts
Alderman, 37th Ward