



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



June 28, 2020

Dear leaders of Chicago's business community,

I wanted to send a note to let you know that after personal engagement from Mayor Lightfoot and our team, Walmart this week announced plans to not just renew but also deepen its commitment to our city by reopening all of its stores in Chicago and pilot a new health center concept paired with a training academy. These announcements are a strong endorsement of the stability and long-term growth potential of the city's economy — particularly in our neighborhoods.

As you know, multiple Walmart locations incurred damage during recent citywide unrest. The Mayor and I met with Walmart CEO Doug McMillon this week to discuss their deep investment in our communities. The reopening of these facilities, in addition to the already-opened Walmart Supercenter in Pullman, demonstrates an almost \$50 million commitment to Chicago, while retaining employment for roughly 1,600 Chicagoans. Walmart will also create two Walmart Health centers at Walmart Supercenters in the Austin and Chatham neighborhoods that will provide local community members access to affordable health care, such as dental, counseling, lab services and urgent care. Walmart's commitment also includes a new Walmart Academy that will be used to train company employees and also serve as a community center where residents can access local community organizations providing education and other resources.

In our discussions, the executive team from Walmart appreciated the open line of dialogue and accessibility of City officials over the past several weeks. In particular, we were one of the only cities to host frequent security update briefings over the past month and deploy city vehicles to protect commercial corridors. They also noted the importance of Mayor Lightfoot's commitment to inclusive economic development



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



with initiative such as INVEST South/West and our goal to close health disparities between communities that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are grateful for Walmart's renewed and expanded commitment to Chicago, and as a city we are doing our part to promote rebuilding and recovery. In addition to \$120M of loans and grants to small businesses over the past 8 weeks, we will also soon publish bold recommendations from the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force which the Mayor Co-Chairs along with Sam Skinner.

Having the #1 company from the FORTUNE 500 deepen its commitment to our city is a positive economic indicator and a strong boost to our recovery efforts, and we expect to announce more investments in Chicago and our neighborhoods in the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

Samir Mayekar
Deputy Mayor
Economic & Neighborhood Development