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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON  
MAYOR

January 24, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the request of the Commissioner of Planning and Development, I transmit herewith an ordinance authorizing a Class L tax incentive for property located at 465 West Cermak Road.

Your favorable consideration of this ordinance will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BJ", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor

## ORDINANCE

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago (the "City") is a home rule unit of government under Section 6(a), Article VII of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois authorized to exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners has enacted the Tax Incentive Ordinance, Classification System for Assessment, as amended from time to time (the "County Ordinance"), which establishes the Class L property tax classification to encourage the preservation and rehabilitation of certain historically and architecturally significant buildings, which will enhance the general character of real estate in the county and contribute to the economic well-being of the county by increasing the level of economic activity, increasing employment opportunities and contributing to the long-term growth of the real property tax base; and

**WHEREAS**, 465 Cermak LLC, an Illinois limited liability company (the "Owner"), is the owner of the historic Hoyt building (the "Building") located at 465 West Cermak Road in Chicago, Illinois, as more precisely described in Exhibit 1 attached hereto and hereby made a part hereof (the land and improvements thereon being herein referred to as the "Project Real Estate"); and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City (the "City Council") adopted an ordinance on April 26, 2006, designating the area encompassing the Building, otherwise known as the Cermak Road Bridge District, as a Chicago Landmark pursuant to the criteria established in Section 2-120-580 et seq. of the Municipal Code of Chicago (the "MCC"); and

**WHEREAS**, on September 7, 2023, the Landmarks Commission (as defined below) issued a written recommendation to the City Council finding that the Building is a contributing building to the historic character within the Cermak Road Bridge District, and such finding as a contributing building meets the definition of contributing building pursuant to the County Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Owner proposes to rehabilitate the Building thereby preserving the historic building, increasing employment opportunities in the area and contributing to the long-term growth of the real property tax base (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, the redevelopment objective of the City in connection with the Project Real Estate is to enhance the character of real estate in the City and Cook County, contribute to the long-term growth in the level of economic activity and employment opportunities in the City and Cook County, contribute to the long-term growth of Cook County's tax base, provide greater tax revenues to the City and Cook County by increasing economic activity at the Building and facilitate the preservation of a historically significant building; and

**WHEREAS**, the Owner intends to use the Building for commercial purposes after the Project is completed by operating the Building as a mixed-use facility which will include hotel, office, healthcare, restaurant and retail spaces along with a new grocery store (the "Intended Use"); and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the Project may require a transfer of a beneficial interest

in the Owner to one or more entities who will receive an allocation of federal historic rehabilitation tax credits ("Tax Credit Investors"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Owner has applied to the Office of the Assessor of Cook County, Illinois (the "Assessor"), for designation of the Project Real Estate as a Class L classification eligible for certain real estate tax incentives pursuant to the County Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the County Ordinance, the Class L classification is available to real estate which is to be used for commercial or industrial purposes and which (1) is a Landmark (as defined in the County Ordinance); and (2) has undergone Substantial Rehabilitation (as defined in the County Ordinance), which constitutes an investment by the owner of at least 50 percent of the building's full market value as determined by the Assessor in the assessment year prior to the commencement of the Substantial Rehabilitation; and the Class L incentive shall apply to the building only, except that if the entire building has been vacant and unused for at least 24 continuous months prior to the filing of the eligibility application with the Assessor, the land upon which the building is situated shall be eligible for the incentive; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Ordinance requires that, in connection with the filing of a Class L eligibility application with the Assessor, an applicant must obtain from the unit of local government in which the real estate is located, an ordinance or resolution which expressly states, among other things, that the local government: 1) has determined that the incentive provided by Class L is necessary for the Substantial Rehabilitation of the property; 2) supports and consents to the granting of the incentive; and 3) has reviewed and accepted its Preservation Commission's (as defined in the County Ordinance) written recommendation of the project for the Class L incentive, specifying the project budget and proposed scope of the work, which meets or exceeds the Standards of the United States Department of the Interior for Rehabilitation, Preservation, Restoration, and Reconstruction of historic properties; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is a Certified Local Government as defined in the County Ordinance and has established the City of Chicago Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the "Landmarks Commission"), and such Landmarks Commission is a Preservation Commission (as defined in the County Ordinance); and

**WHEREAS**, on September 7, 2023, the Landmarks Commission issued a written recommendation of the Project to the City Council recommending that the Project be approved by the Assessor for the Class L incentive, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2 and hereby made a part hereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project Real Estate has been vacant and has not been occupied and used for the 24-month period prior to the filing of the Class L eligibility application with the Assessor, making the land upon which the Building is situated eligible for the Class L incentive; and

**WHEREAS**, the City requires, and the Owner has agreed to perform or cause to be performed, certain work as part of the Project as more fully described in (Sub) Exhibits A and B to Exhibit 2 attached hereto and incorporated herein, in furtherance of the City's efforts to promote a sustainable development policy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City encourages goals of (i) in accordance with Section 2-92-420 et seq. of the MCC, 26 percent MBE and 6 percent WBE participation (measured against the total construction budget for the Project or any phase thereof), and (ii) in accordance with Section 2-92-330 et seq. of the MCC, 50 percent City resident hiring (measured against the total construction work hours for the Project or any phase thereof) where possible and the Owner has acknowledged that it is the policy of the City to maximize opportunities for Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises ("M/WBEs") and City residents to compete for contracts and jobs on construction projects approved by the City.

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Planning and Development of the City ("DPD") has reviewed the proposed Project, has determined that it meets the necessary eligibility requirements for Class L designation, and hereby recommends to City Council that the City expressly determine by ordinance, among other things, that: 1) the incentive provided by Class L is necessary for the Substantial Rehabilitation of the Project Real Estate; 2) the City supports and consents to the granting of the incentive; and 3) the City has reviewed and accepted the Landmarks Commission's written recommendation of the Project for the Class L incentive, specifying the Project budget and proposed scope of the work, and specifying that the Project meets or exceeds the Standards of the United States Department of the Interior for Rehabilitation, Preservation, Restoration, and Reconstruction of historic properties; **now, therefore**,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:**

**SECTION 1.** The above recitals are hereby expressly incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

**SECTION 2.** The City hereby determines that the incentive provided by Class L is necessary for the Substantial Rehabilitation of the Project Real Estate.

**SECTION 3.** The City hereby expressly supports and consents to the granting of the Class L incentive. The City's support and consent to the grant of certification for the Class L incentive for the Project Real Estate is expressly conditioned upon the substantial completion of the Project as proposed by the Owner and approved by the City, both upon completion of the Substantial Rehabilitation of the Project Real Estate and during the term of the Class L incentive.

**SECTION 4.** The Project is anticipated to be completed by December 31, 2026. The Commissioner of DPD (the "Commissioner") or a designee of the Commissioner (together with the Commissioner, an "Authorized Officer") shall have discretion to extend the construction completion date by issuing a written extension letter in response to a written request from the Owner. To the extent that the Project Real Estate is not rehabilitated, used or maintained during the term of the Class L incentive in a manner which is substantially consistent with the approved Project or Intended Use, as determined by the Authorized Officer, the Authorized Officer is hereby authorized to take such steps as may be necessary and appropriate to withdraw the City's support and consent to the Class L incentive, which may cause the Class L certification to be terminated or revoked.

**SECTION 5.** The City has reviewed and hereby accepts the Landmarks Commission's written recommendation of the Project for the Class L incentive, which specifies the Project budget and proposed scope of the work, which specifies that the Project meets or exceeds the Secretary

of the United States Department of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, and which finds that the Building is a contributing building to the historic character of the Cermak Road Bridge District, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2 and made a part hereof.

**SECTION 6.** The Economic Disclosure Statement, as defined in the County Ordinance, has been received and filed by the City.

**SECTION 7.** The Authorized Officer is hereby authorized to deliver a certified copy of this Ordinance to the Assessor and to furnish such additional information as may be required in connection with the filing of the application by the Owner with the Assessor for Class L designation of the Project Real Estate.

**SECTION 8.** The Authorized Officer is hereby authorized to approve minor changes in the scope of work and budget delineated on (Sub) Exhibits A and B to Exhibit 2 hereof, provided that changes in the Building conditions warrant such changes and will not change the suitability of the Project Real Estate for the Intended Use (all as determined in the sole discretion of the Authorized Officer). Changes to the Project budget delineated on (Sub) Exhibit A to Exhibit 2 shall not require prior City approval provided that the Project is substantially completed in accordance with the scope of work defined in (Sub) Exhibit B to Exhibit 2 and achieves the minimum investment required for Class L eligibility.

**SECTION 9.** Upon request by the Owner for a final determination of the eligibility of the Project Real Estate for the Class L incentive by the Landmarks Commission pursuant to the County Ordinance upon completion of the Substantial Rehabilitation of the Project Real Estate, the Authorized Officer shall verify that the work performed substantially conforms to the Project approved by the City and that the Project Real Estate is eligible for the Class L incentive (the "Final Determination").

**SECTION 10.** Any conveyance of all or a portion of the Project Real Estate by the Owner before the Final Determination shall render the support and consent of the City for the Class L incentive set forth hereunder in connection with the Project null and void. Any renewed support and consent of the City for the Class L incentive contemplated in connection with the Project undertaken by a successor in interest to the Owner of the Project Real Estate prior to the Final Determination shall require additional authorization by the City Council. Any change prior to the Final Determination in the direct owners in excess of 7.5% of the Owner or who constitute the direct or indirect controlling parties of the Owner, as determined by the Corporation Counsel (an "Ownership Change"), shall render the support and consent of the City for the Class L incentive set forth hereunder in connection with the Project null and void, unless such Ownership Change is approved by the Authorized Officer in his or her discretion. This Section shall not apply to the transfer of a beneficial interest in the Owner to Tax Credit Investors with respect to the Project, or to the transfer of a leasehold interest in the Project Real Estate to a master tenant entity owned in whole or in part by one or more Tax Credit Investors, provided that such transfers do not involve a change to the direct or indirect controlling parties of the Owner.

**SECTION 11.** No permit fee waiver(s) pursuant to Section 2-120-815 of the Municipal Code of Chicago from the City related to the Project Real Estate shall be granted to the Owner during the rehabilitation of the Project and prior to the expiration of the Class L incentive related

to the Project Real Estate.

**SECTION 12.** To the extent that any ordinance, resolution, order or provision of the Municipal Code of Chicago, or part thereof, is in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be controlling. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision shall be held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 13.** To assist the City in promoting and tracking such M/WBE and City resident participation, the Owner agrees to provide information to the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development at two points in the City approval process for the Project. First, the applicant agrees to submit to the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development an M/WBE Participation Proposal prior to commencement of construction of the Project. The M/WBE Participation Proposal agrees to identify the Owner's goals for participation of certified M/WBE firms in the design, engineering and construction of the Project, and of City residents in the construction work. The M/WBE Participation Proposal agrees to include a description of the Owner's proposed outreach plan designed to inform M/WBEs and City residents of job and contracting opportunities. Second, prior to issuance of a Final Determination for the Project or any phase thereof, the Owner agrees to provide the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development with the actual level of M/WBE and city resident participation in the Project or any phase thereof, and evidence of such participation. In addition to the foregoing, the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development may request such additional information as the Committee determines may be necessary or useful in evaluating the extent to which M/WBEs and City residents are informed of and utilized in projects that seek the Class L classification.

**SECTION 14.** This Ordinance shall be effective from and after its passage and approval.