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cc: Emily Volini Assistant to 48th Ward
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Lori Lightfoot Chicago Mayor
<letterforthemayor@cityofchicago.org>,
and others

date: Sep 14, 2021, 7:15 AM

subject: Request for Help with Climate
Emergency Education Campaign in
48th Ward

mailed- gmail.com
by:

Dear Alderman Harry Osterman,

Hello! My name is Paul Berland and I live in the 48th Ward, near Bryn Mawr and Broadway. I have a very keen interest in the environment and have been aware of environmental issues for over 30 years even as I was growing up in Chicago. In Chicago, we are often living shielded from the most brutal effects of our current economy and policies most devastating effects on the environment around us, but as educated citizens we can easily make ourselves aware of such phenomena as Hurricane Ida which is devastating the South or the crazy flooding in New York City, all of which are direct effects of Global Warming. Global Warming in turn is caused by such very real things as the deforestation of the Amazon Rain Forest to build more grazing land for our fast food industry, which is used extensively throughout Chicagoland, and the continued burning of fossil fuels in gas leaf blowers, gas lawn mowers, gas snow blowers, and gas powered cars and airplanes, which many people around Chicago seem to use with no remorse or awareness as to the consequences of these actions.

I think as citizens of a truly global and powerful city like Chicago, we owe it to our brothers and sisters around the world to do more to become more sustainable and begin to actually address the very severe problem of Global Warming, Climate Change, and Ecological Destruction.

In 2018, the UN issued [a very stern warning](#) that the world has less than 11 years left to reduce GHG (Green House Gas) emissions by 50% or there will be devastating consequences, which will also be very costly and could even lead to an irreversible chain reaction that would make life on this planet unliveable.

Therefore these are very serious concerns that we need to really be cognizant of and really take steps to address now so this doesn't happen in our very near future.

However, in all honesty, we really need to be aware that 11 years from 2018 (now only 8 years left from 2021) really is 8 years for the whole world, and as a powerful American city like Chicago, we should really take it on ourselves to complete this goal in much less time so that there is still time to aid other countries on achieving these goals. By that measure, we should really be targeting half this time, or 4 years, to achieve 50% GHG emissions. Many think this is completely impossible but not me. I have been thinking about this problem for a long time and I have mapped ways to achieve these goals. For example, it only took [3 years in 1942](#) for the entire American car industry to transition from making 100% gas powered cars to 100% tanks. Similarly, today, it could take less than 3 years for our car industries to produce only 100% electric vehicles, if there was an appropriate mobilization effort made by the governing bodies.

The first step to achieve these goals is mass education to get everybody on board to the real challenge that we face. Once everybody, rich and poor, is fully aware that this is a real problem and a real goal to fix, then everybody has a chance to really pitch in and work as a more coordinated, united group of people. I think the single biggest thing with the biggest impact that we can do is to alert our fellow Chicagoans to the impending disaster that awaits if we continue to ignore these concerns and operate with "business as usual", which is extremely damaging and harmful to the world around us. At the same time of alerting them to this impending disaster, we need to fill them with hope by telling them that we have a plan to fix this. The plan is simply to get everyone on board and coordinated to fix this problem and then everybody can better pool their resources to fix this problem, such as by banning gas powered leaf blowers, by severely restricting use of gas powered lawn mowers, reducing air travel, converting to electric vehicles, finding more alternatives to meat consumption, and other hard-hitting changes that we need to make now, not tomorrow.

So the first step in this process is a mass education campaign to really tell people that this is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. It would be on official city letterhead, such as the 48th Ward letterhead, and such as Direct Mailers to every home in the 48th Ward so people know this is serious business, or billboards or highly visible signs or posted notices about this problem.

Is this something that I can get the 48th Ward's help with?

Thank you for reading my concerns and thinking about them.

I look forward to your answer and to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Paul Berland