CHICAGO CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

STATEMENT REGARDING VIOLENCE, LOOTING AND HEALING THE CITY

Today, as we survey the damage inflicted last evening to our beautiful Chicago, the Chicago Central Area Committee (CCAC) is reminded anew of our mission to advance the economic vitality for all of Chicago. We need to maintain a safe place for everyone from every socio-economic group so the City as whole and all of its citizens can thrive. Last evening's violence, destruction and looting dealt a blow to all and made the recovery from Covid19’s economic and other consequences all the more difficult.

We support Mayor Lightfoot and Governor Pritzker in their calls for the end to this looting, vandalism and destruction. Chicago's Loop and greater downtown provide many jobs, shopping, culture and education for Chicago and our whole metropolitan area. Accordingly, today, we sound a call to action to all of our members and more broadly to Chicago's business community to speak out against this violence as well as the mis-guided beliefs and actions that led to George Floyd's tragic death. We must join together to protect the central area of Chicago and all of its neighborhoods and to repair the damaged storefronts, support the return of our businesses and lead the nation in implementing an equity-driven approach for all Chicagoans in this new decade and beyond.

Last year, the CCAC published "A Central City Strategy for All of Chicago." This strategy highlighted the challenges many of our neighborhoods face and acknowledged the need for transformational change. Over the last 12 months, the CCAC and its members have donated well over a million dollars of pro-bono services to Chicago neighborhoods. We understand that governments, the private sector, nonprofits and neighborhood groups must work together to address the serious issues surrounding income inequality, lack of opportunity and the need to provide access to new forms of education, job training, affordable housing, transportation and digital connectivity so all Chicagoans can benefit.

Now, this need is as clear as it has ever been. We are at an inflection point: How can we work together to heal the wounds that divide us and provide the means so all can thrive.

We condemn the events that led to this violence and destruction and believe that together we can heal these wounds and provide for our most precious assets, our citizens, our children and our heritage of the City with Big Shoulders. Although we have difficult challenges ahead of us, we must remember we are one community and we must nourish the spirit and soul of our City and rally around the common goal of one Chicago with opportunity for all.

Greg Hummel
Chairman

Kelly O'Brien
Executive Director

Greg Hummel
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