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Shocking Density Planned for Lincoln Yards

For months, communities around the proposed Lincoln Yards on the North Branch of the Chicago River have demanded to see Sterling Bay's plans for the massive development. Renderings posted on the website of RJ Models, a design vendor, reveal several Willis Tower-type structures and no public open space to balance the unprecedented density. The renderings, commissioned by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, www.rjmodels.com.hk/architectural-model-makers-in-the-US, were apparently posted months ago for 3-D models of the site.

Christina Granfield, Executive Director of Friends of North Branch Park, said "It is just shocking to see developers trying to max out density on the backs of taxpayers. Clearly they want an \$800M TIF to support their enormous private profit."

Granfield continued, "Sterling Bay got away with vague outlines and glossy marketing at a public meeting held in July 2018. But they clearly had a plan enough to order a 3D model before that meeting."

On November 14, the city held a public meeting on a proposed North Branch TIF to pay for infrastructure to support Lincoln Yards over the next twenty years. More than 500 people questioned why the city insists on introducing the TIF for passage on December 11 at the Community Development Commission if the true scope of the Lincoln Yards is still unknown. The angry audience repeated calls for a large, contiguous public-owned park to offset the anticipated 50,000 daytime population. Requirements for both the TIF and Planned Development include a stipulation that a public benefit must be derived in exchange for diverting decades of taxes from schools and the city budget.

Granfield, added, "This is insulting to every taxpayer - parents, homeowners, sports enthusiasts, teachers, businesses and future Chicagoans. We are watching the city, Alderman Hopkins and this developer run out the clock in an attempt to evade public discourse. Sterling Bay's misdirection and deflection of the truth is now exposed. We are outraged that a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape our city has been holed up in a dark back room. It's time to bring this sham into the light."

Sterling Bay is set to present at the second public meeting called by Alderman Brian Hopkins

on Thursday, November 29 at 6:00 p.m. at Park Community Church, 1001 Crosby Street

