

David Moore South Suburban Airport Support Statement
Auburn Gresham Metra Stop – 79th & Lowe Streets
Saturday, June 27, 2020

Currently, we're experiencing a health crisis, a financial crisis and a social justice crisis. The convergence of these three crises have given our city and community leaders, and residents 20/20 vision on the inequities and decades of disinvestment in our City's black communities on the south and west sides

Two recent reports show the ongoing investment disparities that black communities experience. In a report released by Northwestern University, *A Penny on the Dollar: Racial Inequalities in Wealth among Households with Children*, it reveals the wealth gap between Black and white families has widened since the Great Recession of 2008. Astonishingly, for every dollar a white family has, black families have only one-cent.

In another report on lending disparities, *Where Banks Don't Lend – 2012 – 2018*, it reveals that for every dollar banks loan in white neighborhoods, only 12-cents goes into black neighborhoods. Chase Bank, which is the second largest lender in loan dollars made only three loans in the Black middle-class community of Chatham over a six-year period. The giant lender made loans totaling \$1 million in Englewood and West Englewood, while at the same time investing \$800 million in Lincoln Park.

This ongoing disinvestment is one of many reasons why South Side communities have the largest population losses in the city. West Englewood, Englewood, Auburn Gresham and Roseland have lost more than 75,000 residents since 1990.

Since the protests started, I've been talking about one thing—jobs, business opportunities, the hiring of black professionals to perform services and spending money with black media. After decades of disinvestment and political neglect, our communities are on life support. Like those who are trying to stop the spread of the coronavirus, we need all hands on deck and we need to try every economic development tool at our disposal to address the structural racism that has brought us to this time in our city and nation's history.

In 2015, I ran on economic development that takes a regional approach. This is not an either/or, but an “and/both. We need to throw everything we have at the South Side to address the myriad problems residents are facing.

Among other initiatives that I support, I also support completion of the South Suburban Airport as an economic engine to create thousands of jobs at every skill level for the Chicago Southland. The airport is 90% complete and community leaders need to support its completion.

To stop the exodus of residents, create jobs, attract businesses, stop the violence and generate a tax base to fund our schools, we must support a project that'll help transform communities like mine that have lost so much in the last 30 years.

South Side residents have some of the longest daily commutes in the nation, because the jobs have left the community. That's why I choose this location in front of the slated Auburn Gresham Metra stop to show how transportation, infrastructure investments and connecting residents to jobs will make it possible for South Side residents to stay in their communities.

Large transportation-related projects are the kinds of investments that create community wealth by allowing people to stay in their homes, create local businesses, fund neighborhood schools and support families.

I'm asking community leaders to imagine with me the Auburn Gresham Metra stop, the Redline extension, the Metra Electric Line extension from Governors State University to the South Suburban Airport and completion of the airport all taking place at the same time. When have we seen these types of projects on the South Side of Chicago?

The recent announcements of three new Amazon fulfillment centers in Matteson, Markham and Pullman show the Southland, as a region will benefit from completion of the South Suburban Airport. Today's attendance of suburban and city leaders at this news conference shows we're ready to work together to move the airport the last 10% to completion and we're asking everyone to get onboard and get this project ready for take off.