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Re: Support Mayor-elect Brandon Johnson! Support Chicago's Future!

An Open Letter to my clients, colleagues and associates:

Paul Vallas last night said, "It's critically important, that we use this opportunity to come together."

Brandon Johnson's first words last night were: "To the Chicagoans who did not vote for me, here's what I want you to know, that I care about you, I value you, and I want to hear from you. I want to work with you and I will be the mayor for you, too."



Let's all come together for Chicago, perhaps like we never have before. We have been through a lot these past few years. We faced the COVID pandemic. We faced rioting in our streets in the wake of the killing of George Floyd. We faced political turmoil at the highest levels in our nation, our state, and our city.

Truth be known, I initially supported Paul Vallas. So much so that I wrote a check for \$10,000 in support of his candidacy. But that was an act driven by my head and not my heart. Paul and I served together in the administration of Mayor Richard M. Daley. So I know Paul. I like Paul. But I didn't know Brandon Johnson. I didn't know who he was.

But as Election Day drew near I listened to my heart. These past several days I have been inextricably drawn to Brandon's message of inclusion. Somehow I tend to feel compassion for the underdog, the downtrodden, the Cinderella who overcomes the odds because their heart is in the right place.

Chicago will be in for big changes over the next four years. But through it all I believe the city will be better, bigger, brighter and more inclusive. When Harold Washington was elected on April 13, 1983, some people feared that would lead to the decline of Chicago. In fact, the city prospered. Buildings were built and the city's economy expanded.

Election Day yesterday coincided with the 55th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Perhaps it's poetic that this election of a new Black mayor of Chicago occurred on that anniversary.

Please join together with me and redouble your effort in support of Chicago right now when the city needs you most. With you and me and everyone, let's put our shoulders to the wheel to move our city forward. Now is the time. Please embrace and support our new Mayor-elect Brandon Johnson.

Sincerely,

Graham Grady

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