

TIMMY KNUDSEN
ALDERMAN, 43RD WARD
43RD WARD OFFICE
2523 NORTH HALSTED STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614
PHONE: 773-348-9500
FAX: 773-348-9594
E-MAIL: YOURVOICE@WARD43.ORG



CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL ROOM 300
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
PHONE: 312-744-3778

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & ENERGY
(VICE-CHAIRMAN)
BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEES AND RULES
FINANCE
IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS
PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY
POLICE AND FIRE
PUBLIC SAFETY
ZONING, LANDMARK, AND BUILDING
STANDARDS

April 16th, 2026

Dear Commissioner Hopkins,

I am writing to formally request that the Department of Buildings place an immediate administrative hold on all demolition and construction permits for the property at 1111 W. Diversey Parkway (former COVID Testing Center / Mini Dealership)

A significant challenge is currently underway regarding the Zoning Administrator's potential classification of the proposed 138kV regional transmission hub as a "Minor Utility." We have raised credible technical objections, arguing that this substation project meets the "Major Utility" criteria due to its substantial land-use impact and proximity to local schools and childcare centers. Please see the attached letter that was sent to Zoning Administrator Patrick Murphey last Thursday, April 2nd.

Issuing demolition permits before this classification is resolved would cause irreparable harm to the commercial continuity of the Diversey corridor.

Furthermore, I am requesting that this hold remain in place until the following additional reviews are completed:

Fire Safety: A containment and thermal radiation audit by the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Environmental Impact: An acoustic study and soil quality review by the Department of Environment.

Public Way Safety: A clearance envelope vetting by CDOT Electrical Operations.

I expect that no physical alteration of the site will be authorized until the community has been formally briefed and all safety vetting is on the public record.

Respectfully,

Timmy Knudsen
Alderman, 43rd Ward