



**Not-for-profit Organization**

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& President**

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**October 12, 2020**

**Dear President Toni Preckwinkle:**

The Westside Ministers Coalition of Chicago and Vicinity Inc. is an organization whose mission is to provide services that will initiate self-help efforts to improve the Austin community of Chicago and abroad in areas of housing, public safety, clergy involvement, education, health, energy conservation, community, youth, economic development, and to work in cooperation with other organizations with similar values in accomplishing our goals.

In these unprecedented times people all over the world are experiencing financial hardships and setbacks. We must come together even more to make sure that the pandemic does not allow the residents to be denied the necessary access to vital health resources they have a right to. The merging of Near South and Woodlawn Health Clinics into Provident Hospital will cause some inconveniences to the residents, but in the end, Consolidation is better than elimination, and relocation is better than reducing services, and still being allowed to remain fiscally responsible.

All levels of governments are in the forefront of a crisis with the increased spending on Public Health and Medicaid that lay heavy on their budgets. There are many businesses and high levels of unemployment that have caused sales tax revenues to plummet not affording the county to collect necessary revenue and fees to withstand this financial burden.

It is my hope and prayer that President Toni Preckwinkle and the entire Cook County Board of Commissioner's will pass a balanced budget to ensure that vital resources and services will continue to be made available to residents that are vital to the black and brown communities, and support your efforts to do so. Please send all correspondences to the P.O. Box 51547, Chicago, IL., 60651.

**Respectfully,**

**Dr. Phalese A. Binion  
CEO/President**

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