



Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
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BPNC's Statement on Amazon HQ2 in Chicago 11/6/17

"If there's money for Amazon, there must be money for our schools," say leaders at Brighton Park Neighborhood Council.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel's efforts to woo Amazon to the City show that he is capable of finding hundreds of millions of dollars in cash, property, and tax subsidies. Yet he has refused to find new progressive sources of revenue for Chicago's public schools, which are now working under a budget that bakes in more than \$400 million in cuts for just the last two years alone, gutting resources for neighborhood public schools.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and aldermen must change their priorities to fund neighborhood public schools.

A new Amazon headquarters cannot come at the expense of investment in our schools, communities, and existing jobs. Mayor Emanuel's commitment of \$600 million to renovate the Old Post Office for Amazon while also cutting hundreds of millions of dollars from schools in the last three years while his hand-picked CPS team is considering school closings and consolidations in 2018.

Chicago's TIF funds must be redirected to our schools. Mayor Emanuel's corporate allies benefit from tax breaks and corporate welfare while neighborhood schools confront the loss of hundreds of librarians, counselors, and teachers. Corporations must pay their fair share in taxes for public services - particularly public education - through initiatives like the reinstatement of the corporate head tax that Mayor Emanuel eliminated shortly after he took office. Aldermen must support these progressive revenue streams by passing the TIF surplus ordinance and reinstating the corporate head tax.