



### THANK YOU FOR BECOMING PART OF THE TIF ELIMINATION PROJECT!

1. Please copy the petition page and collect signatures – when you have collected a few sheets, please mail them to us at the address indicated on the sheet. If people do not know their alderman, please use this site to look that up: <https://tinyurl.com/Look-Up-Alderman>
2. Email us at [info@civiclab.us](mailto:info@civiclab.us) to let us know you are on the case – we'll contact you to check in.
3. Share this simple URL for the campaign's Action Center: <https://tinyurl.com/End-TIFs-Action-Center>
4. If you are a member of any religious, civic or business organization, bring this campaign to the leadership and members and ask them to endorse this campaign. We will list the organization as an endorser and will connect to see how we can work together. Please email us at [info@civiclab.us](mailto:info@civiclab.us) if your organization is considering becoming an endorser.
5. Please consider making a donation of \$10, \$25 or even \$100 to support this campaign: <https://tinyurl.com/Support-CivicLab>

### TALKING POINTS TO SHARE

**Background:** TIFs are everywhere in the city of Chicago. About 30% of all properties here are in TIF districts. Since TIFs were started here in 1986 some 182 TIFs have been created. In 2018 there were 145 active TIFs in the city. In 2018 these 145 TIFs stole \$674.7 million in property taxes from the people of Chicago. In 2018 they spent a total of \$419 million. At the end of 2018 Chicago's TIF accounts had a total of \$1.5 billion in property tax dollars. For an overview of how TIFs work see [www.tifreports.com](http://www.tifreports.com). For full details of Chicago's 2018 TIF activity see our [2018 TIF Illumination](http://www.tifreports.com/2018-tif-analysis) [<http://www.tifreports.com/2018-tif-analysis>]

#### **Tax Increment Financing districts are:**

- **Secretive** - TIF deals are done quickly, debated in mock public meetings, the entire process is opaque and inaccessible.
- **Corrupting** - The CivicLab's research has revealed multiple instances where developers receiving millions of public dollars through the TIF program have given mayor and alderman large campaign donations.
- **Starving public schools and essential public services** - TIFs grab property tax dollars and place them in a slush fund controlled by the mayor with the acquiescence of the City Council. If a dollar of property tax goes missing there are consequences. Local units of government rely on property taxes for operation. The major consumer of our property taxes are our public schools (in itself a regressive and unjust situation). About 56 cents of every property tax dollar is SUPPOSED to go to the Board of Education
- **Showering wealthy, connected developers** with public dollars while the heavily TIF'd West Side rots. Since TIFs came to Chicago they have stolen over \$8 BILLION in property taxes and showered most of those funds on

wealthy and connected developers. Development projects in the 42nd Ward (including Chicago's Loop and LaSalle Street business district) have received a staggering \$841 million in public subsidies via the TIF program. The TIF for the Lincoln Yards Project will steal \$1.4 billion for a monstrously bloated development along the Chicago River in Lincoln Park. It includes \$400 million in finance fees. The TIF for the so-called Project 78 along the river at Roosevelt Avenue will steal \$1.1 billion and also includes \$400 million in finance fees. These two TIFs are acts of economic warfare on Black and Brown communities and working class Chicagoans. Mayor Lightfoot has blessed these two criminal TIFs.

- **Perverting the process of economic development** - Research shows TIFs have nothing to do with economic development. They encourage poorly thought out and weak projects. When developers use clout to subsidize their projects they place properties on the market that cost less to build than they should and make risk taking easier to bear. The results are projects that enter an over-crowded or declining market. TIFs have very little or NOTHING to do with sound community planning and economic development. The academic research says that TIFs are a wash, at best, in the economic health of a city, and often are a negative. TIFs are really hidden debt and hidden governance. They do NOT and CAN NOT develop poor Black and Brown communities
- **Unfair and anti-distributive** - The law says that TIFs are supposed to spend public dollars INSIDE the TIF where they have been collected. TIFs handcuff public dollars and when they are placed in hot and booming areas, the property taxes they amass can NOT be distributed or used far away in poor and afflicted communities. TIFs hoard public dollars in wealthy communities where TIFs exist.

**Therefore, we assert that TIFs are racist.** The plague of TIFs follow in a long line of majority-imposed policies on Black and Brown communities that are designed to keep them down, bleed them, fleece them, and make advancement impossible in America and in Chicago. We make this connection: Slavery-> Jim Crow-> Red Lining-> Segregation-> Disinvestment-> Urban Renewal-> Contract Buying-> Predatory Lending/Credit Deserts-> TIFs/Privatization. Chicago's communities of color bear witness to the harms of these policies (persistent poverty, homicide, unemployment, health outcomes and life expectancy, school closings, militarization of their communities, racial profiling, lack of affordable housing). These are some of the reasons for massive Black flight where over 500,000 African Americans have left Chicago since 1970. This massive forced displacement and out migration has been designed and abetted by local government officials and powered by TIFs.

**Conclusion:** TIFs must be abolished, they can't be reformed. It's time to put Chicago's youth and families first. Chicago needs a new vision and a new set of resources to spread opportunity and justice throughout the city. We can NEVER have the city we deserve with TIFs running riot.

Thanks again!

Any questions - 773-770-5714 – [info@civiclub.us](mailto:info@civiclub.us)



END TIFs NOW!



Racist. Unjust. Slush fund.

[tinyurl.com/End-TIFs-Now](http://tinyurl.com/End-TIFs-Now)