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March 11, 2008

The Honorable Thomas R. Allen
Alderman- 38th Ward
City of Chicago
5817 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, IL 60634

Dear Alderman Allen:

Oh behalf of the Friends of Downtown, I urge you to look at the facts and vote against the Chicago Children's Museum's proposal to move to Grant Park.

Friends of Downtown has been a voice for intelligent planning and urban design for downtown Chicago since 1981 and we take pride in creating awareness of important issues affecting downtown Chicago.

As you'll see in the attached letters from 2006 and 2007, the Board of the Friends of Downtown has been consistent in its efforts against having the Museum in Daley Bicentennial Plaza.

One of our city's greatest civic leaders, Montgomery Ward, would easily recognize the fight over the Chicago Children's Museum in Grant Park. It's pretty much the same one he fought more than 100 years ago -- and the one he is revered for today.

Ward wasn't fighting against people wanting to put slaughterhouses in the park. He was fighting the Field Museum of Natural History. A huge bequest was at stake, time was running out and it was claimed there was no place else to put the museum, all the civic leaders thought he was standing in the way of progress. And yet Ward protected the park for future generations and the Field Museum has thrived in its current location.

If and when this issue reaches the City Council, we hope you will remember Montgomery Ward's fight and stand by his side.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wolf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Tom Wolf
President