

MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thursday 2/8: Property Taxes Public Meeting in Brighton Park

**While Brighton Park property owners are being over-assessed by an average of 22%, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Burke has made a fortune while he works to save President Trump over \$17 million in property taxes.**

WHO: Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC), families from the southwest side. Lawyers from the Chicago Lawyers' Committee, Alderman Cardenas, Alderman Lopez, Commissioner Chuy Garcia, and State Senator Sandoval will also attend the public meeting. We also invited Alderman Burke and Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios but neither has confirmed.

WHAT: BPNC is holding a public meeting to inform residents about the unfair property tax assessment system that results in their properties being over-assessed by 22%. Leaders are demanding a new, transparent and fair system. Lawyers from Chicago Lawyers' Committee will make a presentation about our [lawsuit](#) against the Assessor's Office. Additionally, **community residents will demand Alderman Burke drop Donald J. Trump as a client from his [private law firm](#) and support a new and transparent assessment system.**

*"During these toxic times, we need our elected officials representing us to actually **represent us**. Alderman Burke providing property tax relief to Trump is an insult to an immigrant community that's 85% Latinx. That's why we're demanding #BurkeDropTrump."*

- Vince Avalos, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward Resident and DACA Recipient

WHERE: Shields Middle School 2611 W 48th St., Chicago, IL 60632

WHEN: Thursday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

WHY: Brighton Park families are tired of paying 22% more in property taxes than wealthy neighborhoods like River North and Lincoln Park. A [ProPublica and Chicago Tribune](#) article published in December 2017 showed that Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios' error-ridden commercial and industrial assessments punish property owners while benefiting property tax lawyers like [Alderman's Burke private law firm](#).

On December 14, 2017, the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council and Logan Square Neighborhood Association filed a lawsuit in circuit court alleging that the office of Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios conducts assessments that systematically and illegally shift residential property tax burdens from Whites to Latinx and African-Americans, and from the rich to the poor. The community organizations are represented by a team of lawyers from Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, and Miner, Barnhill & Galland.

At the public meeting, parent leaders will share their testimonies with an audience of over 400 residents. A 14<sup>th</sup> ward DACA recipient will also share his testimony and demand Alderman Burke drop Donald J. Trump as client and support a fair and transparent assessment process.

Follow on Twitter: [@BPNCchicago](#) [#BurkeDropTrump](#)

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC) is a community-based, grassroots organization located on Chicago's Southwest side. We work to empower our community and build its capacity by providing school and community-based services. BPNC also engages leaders in social justice organizing campaigns.

<https://www.bpncchicago.org/>

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