

May 23, 2013

Jim Casey
Office of Water Resources, IDNR
160 N. LaSalle St., Suite S-703
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Permit application for Montrose Crane

Dear Jim,

Friends of the Parks is a 38-year-old park advocacy organization working to protect, preserve, improve and increase the amount of park space in Chicago. Friends of the Parks has reviewed the proposal to construct a Travel Lift system in Chicago's Montrose Harbor, and we strongly believe that the proposed crane is not appropriate on Chicago's lakefront.

Montrose Harbor is heavily used by boaters, birders, bikers, beach goers and thousands of sports enthusiasts and families. The uses of Montrose Harbor for boaters and others are decidedly recreational in nature. In the past, proposals for inappropriate facilities at Montrose were turned down in order to protect the historic landscape and the views and vistas of Lake Michigan. In the only instance in 35 years in which the Chicago Plan Commission rejected a proposal from the Park District, it was for a plan to install a temporary golf dome on the Montrose Harbor parking lot. A Travel Lift crane is as egregious as a golf dome.

For nearly 100 years, previous Park District administrations and the city worked to keep the lakefront free from commercial uses. City zoning ordinances and the Lakefront Protection Ordinance directed and continue to direct large industrial cranes to the Calumet River to protect the lakefront from such intrusions. We believe that the crane proposal violates six of the 8 relevant policies of the Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance including policies 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 (see attached).

Additionally, the Park District's *Lincoln Park Framework Plan* states that harbor facilities should provide "significant places for viewing lakefront activities." The proposed Travel Lift at Montrose Harbor would run counter to that objective and set a bad precedent for the future. Friends of the Parks requests that your offices deny the permit request.

Sincerely,

Erma Tranter,
President

Cc: Alderman Cappleman
Lincoln Park Advisory Council