

Presents...

The Chicago Neighborhood Initiative:

## Revitalizing Our Marketplace



## Methodology

Because a neighborhood encompasses so much more than what its demographics and statistics reveal, a canvassing report is crucial for creating a more complete picture that also includes non-statistical information, such as the physical condition of buildings, true accessibility, public transportation options, ratio of visitors to residents and the graffiti and littering that a canvasser can witness. Through visits and photos of communities taken during peak hours, an outsider can gain a comprehensive understanding of a neighborhood that falls beyond its demographics.

After identifying Chicago community areas defined by the Multiple Listing Service and City of Chicago, C.A.R.'s Economic Development Team visited and walked one commercial corridor in each. We made note of each street-level storefront property address, its use and its condition. We also observed each community area as a whole, pertaining to its cleanliness, walkability, housing stock, traffic patterns and connectedness to other city areas. We visited some local establishments too, to assess their level of business and availability of certain services.

Following is our finding.

The Near West Side's commercial corridor, located on Madison Avenue from Halsted Street to Loomis Street, seems to accurately reflect the community around it. The corridor is pedestrian-friendly; its wide sidewalks can simultaneously accommodate people eating, shopping and commuting. Bike lanes on both sides of the street help cyclists travel safely to and from downtown. Bike racks invite people to park their bikes and enjoy the neighborhood's amenities. A few restaurants have dining patios yet their placement still allows room for pedestrians.

Businesses and residences are mixed throughout the corridor; mixed-use developments seem to be the most popular building type. These buildings feature retail and commercial space on the ground floors with multi-unit residential properties are above. Commercial endeavors include restaurants and boutique shops.

Near West Side buildings range from good to excellent condition. The area seems popular with young families and couples, likely first-time home buyers seeking easy access to work,



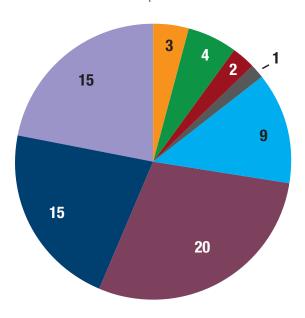
## City of Chicago Community Areas



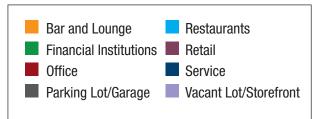
Drivers can find multiple places to park within the corridor. Street parking is metered and parking garages are tucked into buildings. This feature minimizes traffic congestion and maximizes pedestrian safety. The Near West Side is a welcoming community with easy access to the city.

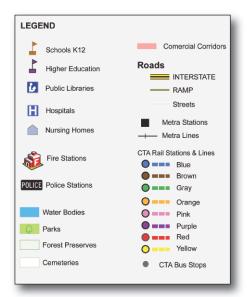
Residential Profile: Much of the area's housing is condo loft buildings, along with a few townhome developments.

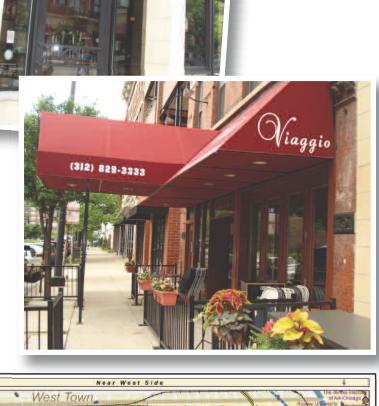
## Madison Avenue Snapshot



69 Businesses in Surveyed Area of Near West Side





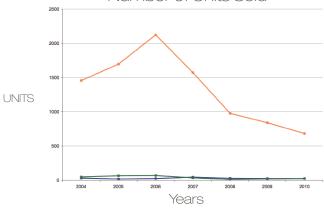


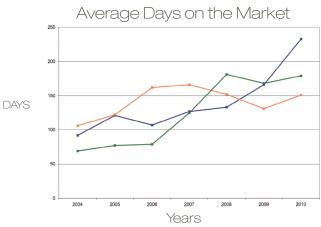


**Near West Side by the Numbers** 

**Housing Statistics** 









MLS Information (2004-2010) Property Type Classifications:

Type 1 - Single Family Detached; Type 2 - Multi Unit Attached; Type 3 - 2, 3, 4 Flats STATISTIC SOURCE: Midwest Real Estate Data LLC (MRED)

Street/Corridor Madison Jackson Ashland Halsted	Bus Routes CTA 20 CTA 126 CTA 9 CTA 8	Ridership - 2007 6,783,961 2,793,253 7,761,503 6,353,409	2008 6,809,210 2,935,291 8,026,210 7,230,738	<b>2009</b> 6,621,703 2,663,720 7,497,612 7,446,453	<b>2010</b> 6,224,615 2,174,725 8,781,029 6,489,684
Street/Corridor	CTA "L" Train/Metra	Ridership - 2007	2008	2009	2010
Medical Center	Blue Line	697,637	767,582	809,642	838,178
Racine	Blue Line	619,126	636,239	609,172	593,651
Halsted-UIC	Blue Line	1,286,209	1,406,969	1,340,464	1,375,351
Clinton	Pink and Green Lines	1,030,100	125,362	1,186,882	1,116,235
Ashland	Pink and Green Lines	688,732	747,001	746,589	687,164

<sup>\*2010</sup> Chicago Transit Authority ridership numbers are through November 2010 only. Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) ridership numbers were sourced through the CTA website www.transitchicago.com.