

# Final Death Knell for the Planet Earth

September 27, 2021

This month, the City of Chicago released its' 2022 Budget Recommendations under the Lori Lightfoot administration, a 604 page document that can be found at [this link](#). Anything related to The Environment and the thousands of other species other than human beings (other than how to eliminate rodents or to control pets) seems to be confined to one small department with one employee called "Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy", on page 60, which saw a modest increase in funds from \$205,200 + \$800 materials in 2021 to \$215,460 + \$800 in materials in 2022.

Clearly, materials such as Direct Mailers or other Mass Education Campaign Costs are **not** included here, which advocates for Mother Earth such as Coyotes for Mother Earth, Environment Matters, and Citizens for a Climate Emergency have been trying to convince City employees is an **absolute necessity** to educate the public of the city on the need to get smart about global warming from an Authoritative Trusted Source (such as the City), of which the sources are vanishing as we speak.

It is a shame that of the \$1.67 billion the City of Chicago received for 2022 under the American Rescue Plan (see page 3 from [the City of Chicago 2022 Budget Overview](#)) from President Biden, only \$10,260 (a mere 0.0006%) is allocated towards Environmental Rescue.

The City of Chicago is well-known to be the bastion for environmental progress in the Midwest of the United States of America, having more EV charging stations than any other Midwestern city by far, but this measly allocation by the Lori Lightfoot administration for one of the most influential industrial cities in the world sounds to me like the Final Death Knell for the Planet Earth.

Note that this budget recommendation is **not** final, but in its current polished form it is likely to be simply rubber-stamped by the city officials without any real critical thought or debate, for its final adoption in December 2021.

The Public Input that they sought out at the Budget Engagement Forums throughout the City, the We Are Chicago website forums, E-mails to Aldermen, and Lori Lightfoot's own admissions and words are clearly being ignored or under-utilized for this effort.

## Correction to Final Death Knell of the Planet Earth sent on September 27, 2021

Update: October 5 2021

The 47<sup>th</sup> Ward Green Council announced this week that of the 2022 Budget for the City of Chicago, there is more than \$200 million allocated towards environmental goals. They are having [a presentation on October 6 at 6:30 PM](#) to go over this.

According to their E-mail, the more than \$200 million will be spent on the following areas: composting programs, improvement of tree canopy, putting solar panels on public buildings, Chicago Public School learn gardens, electric vehicle charging stations, and Divvy (bike share) expansion.

Of these programs, only 3 are mentioned in the 604 page [Lori Lightfoot administration's 2022 budget announcement](#): the Divvy bike share expansion will include 16,500 more bikes and 800 more stations, they will be doing a tree inventory in 2022 of trees on public properties, and they will install more electric vehicle charging stations.

It is true that I missed these when I first reviewed the 604 page document during the writing of my previous E-mail, "Final Death Knell of the Planet Earth". Therefore my figure was off; and it seems that the expenditure is more like 10.7% from the American Recovery Act will be spent on environmentally positive activities.

It still seems true that no money will be used yet for education and forewarning of youth and adults alike about the Climate Emergency.

Michael Sewall of the 47<sup>th</sup> Ward said that there were efforts of the 47<sup>th</sup> Ward for educating the community about the Climate Emergency through digital communications and community outreach, but I have not seen any of these efforts yet, and I am on all of their relevant mailing lists.

In our absence of any real place at the table in the decision-making process, we can only hope that the administration will succeed in steering us away from catastrophe caused by the Climate Emergency that was [warned to us by the UN in 2018](#).

As for the average public citizen of Chicago, we are not getting any sort of definite signal whatsoever in public media and entertainment industry that we should do or behave any differently than we already are. Therefore, the burden is on the governmental administrations and decision makers to pull off this miracle, since the bulk of the encouraged messaging is quite the opposite to continue to buy and consume as normal the unsustainable products that flood our economy and encouraged lifestyles, and this is what a majority of the people believe, based on my interactions with people around Chicago.