

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 2025

Manny Flores Announced as Metropolitan Planning Council Board Chair



CHICAGO - Metropolitan Planning Council is pleased to announce that Manny Flores is the organization's new Board Chair. Manny joined MPC's board in 2021 and served on the Executive Committee. He brings a unique blend of public and private sector experience to Board meetings and MPC engagements. Manny is the President & CEO of SomerCor, a leading nonprofit small business lending and economic development company. Throughout his career, he has been deeply committed to advancing economic development initiatives across Illinois. His work at SomerCor builds from his experience as a Chicago City Council member and Director of the Division of Banking and Acting Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

In addition to his work at SomerCor, he is an active member of the Cook County Economic Development Advisory Committee, where he chairs the Small Business Subcommittee. Along with serving on the board at MPC, Manny serves on the advisory board of the First Eagle Bank CDFI and as a director on the boards of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the United Way Metro Chicago, and the Environmental Law and Policy Center. Manny is an attorney and a graduate of the George Washington University Law School. He is also a Leadership Greater Chicago fellow, class of 2009.

"I'm honored to serve as MPC's newest Board Chair. MPC is an essential leader, convener, and partner in the region, and has been for decades. MPC's commitment to research and policies that improve the well-being of all residents in our region inspires me personally and professionally, and I'm



eager to work with Dan and his exciting new vision to guide MPC at this critical time in our region and nation's history," said Flores.

"Manny is an ideal partner for me as I assume my role as President and CEO. He brings a unique blend of work in government, in for-profit and non-profit business, and a network of relationships locally and nationally and that will extend MPC's reach and influence. I'm eager to collaborate with Manny in this new role," said Dan Lurie, President & CEO of MPC. "Manny has already had significant impact on economic development, clean energy, and environmental policy in Illinois. Together, and with the support of the rest of the board members and our other stakeholders, we will be able to make bigger, bolder impact."

"I also want to extend my thanks to outgoing Board Chair, Paul Carlisle, for his dedication to the organization over the last two years. His strategic support was invaluable as MPC navigated leadership transition and an extensive strategic visioning and re-branding process during his tenure. I'm grateful that Paul will continue to be actively engaged on the MPC Board," Lurie said.

ABOUT MPC:

Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) is an independent planning and policy organization working to address regional built environment issues through a racial and economic justice lens. MPC partners with communities, businesses, and government to advance policy and drive systemic change toward a racially equitable and economically just Chicago region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Morgan Murphy
MPC Director of Marketing & Communications
231.838.0567
mmurphy@metroplanning.org