

## **Press Release: Chicago Grand Neighbors Association (CGNA) and West Town Neighbors Association (WTNA) Unite to Strengthen Community Voice**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Chicago, IL — April 21, 2024** — The Chicago Grand Neighbors Association (CGNA) and West Town Neighbors Association (WTNA) are thrilled to announce their merger, to create a more robust and impactful community organization. This strategic alliance comes after a period of reflection and adaptation during the pandemic, when neighborhood organizations faced unique challenges.

Both CGNA and WTNA experienced a decline in activity from 2020 to 2022 due to the pandemic. Longtime residents moved away, while new neighbors joined our vibrant community. During this time, the WTNA board recognized the need for sustainable solutions to continue their vital work.

### **Shared Vision:**

CGNA and WTNA engaged in extensive discussions about their shared priorities. The organizations identified common goals, including:

- **Public Safety:** Ensuring the well-being of all residents.
- **Representation:** Advocating for our community with local elected officials, especially given the recent redistricting and new ward boundaries.
- **Planning and Development:** Enhancing the neighborhood's future, especially the Grand Avenue corridor.
- **Membership and Visibility:** Engaging residents and increasing organizational presence and participation.

Recognizing the power of collaboration, CGNA and WTNA decided to consolidate resources. By joining forces, we create a stronger, more effective organization. Our organization's name, Chicago Grand Neighbors Association (CGNA), reflects our familiar northern and southern boundaries of Chicago and Grand Avenues. The organization's expanded boundary now stretches from Ashland Avenue on the east to Western Avenue on the west.

CGNA is committed to amplifying the collective voice of our community. We invite all residents, both longstanding and new, to participate actively. Together, we will champion safety, advocate for representation, and shape the future of our beloved neighborhood.

**Attention Members!** To recognize our new and expanded organization, please join us for our annual CGNA member meeting on **Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30 PM**, at **Space 1858**, located at **1858 W Grand Avenue**. During this meeting, we will also be hosting our annual election. Current members will be eligible to vote. Current WTNA members will automatically be transferred to CGNA.

If you are not current on your membership dues or want to become a member, sign up here: <https://cgnaweb.org/membership/>

Yearly membership dues are as follows:

- Individual: \$15
- Family: \$25
- Seniors (65 and older): \$10
- Friends of CGNA (for businesses): \$40

If you would like to be part of our Support Local Business page, please let us know your web and email address.

Are you an active and engaged community member looking to participate? We are looking for new board members to assist as **Treasurer, Secretary, Planning and Development, and At-Large Board Members**. Please send inquiries to [connect@cgnaweb.org](mailto:connect@cgnaweb.org) to be considered by the nominating committee no later than **May 15th**.

For inquiries or further information, please contact:

**Chicago Grand Neighbors Association (CGNA)** Email: [connect@cgnaweb.org](mailto:connect@cgnaweb.org)

*Join us as we build a stronger community together!*