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The Honorable Brandon Johnson
Mayor of Chicago
Democratic National Convention
Monday, August 19, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Welcome to the greatest city in the world!

Chicago: Where Ida B. Wells and Jane Addams organized to deliver real, transformative change across the country. Chicago: Where Rev. Jesse Jackson united people of every background to “Keep Hope Alive,” and a community organizer on the South Side—Barack Obama—rose to the White House by reminding us “Yes, We Can.”

And now Chicago—this city of hard work and caring people—is where Democrats will celebrate President Joe Biden, and nominate Kamala Harris for President of the United States of America!

As the son of a family that worked to make ends meet, I know that Kamala Harris—the daughter of a hardworking mom who did the same—will always have our backs. As a fellow former social studies teacher, I know that Tim Walz will never shrink from standing up for our democracy, and for those most in need.

And as a Black man raising a Black girl on the West Side of Chicago, I know that my daughter will see not only a reflection of herself in the White House, but our deepest American values.

Think about it. What will it take to build the middle class and make it easier for families to not only get by, but get ahead? It will take someone with the toughness to stand up for us. Let me tell you: Kamala’s got it.

What will it take to defend our fundamental rights and freedoms? It will take someone with the leadership to fight for us. Let me tell you: She’s got it. And what will it take to defeat MAGA Republicans and move our country forward, not backward?

It will take everyone—and let me tell you: She’s got us! Together, we will build a better, brighter future!

And there is no better place to start than here in Chicago!

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