

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on Friday, October 4, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held before the Executive Director of the Illinois Finance Authority (the “*Authority*”), or his designee, in Suite 501 of the law office of Hart, Southworth & Witsman, One North Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62701, as required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “*Code*”), relating to a plan of finance for the Authority regarding, (a) a proposed issuance of its revenue bonds, in one or more tax-exempt series, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$26,000,000 (the “*Series 2024 Bonds*”) and (b) a proposed reissuance for federal tax purposes of its Illinois Finance Authority Revenue Refunding Bond, Series 2017A (The Lincoln Park Zoological Society), in one or more tax-exempt series in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$26,000,000 (the “*Series 2017A Bonds*”) and, together with the Series 2024 Bonds, the “*Bonds*”). In the event that the designated public hearing location described in the preceding sentence is not adequate to accommodate social distancing concerns of any persons who arrive at the designated time of the public hearing or is otherwise unavailable due to health concerns, at the request of anyone present or if the space is otherwise unavailable due to health concerns, the Authority will move the public hearing outside in the immediate vicinity of the building and members of the public will be redirected to that location. In addition, the public hearing will be simultaneously accessible by residents, taxpayers and other interested persons telephonically on Friday, October 4, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., by dialing into the toll-free telephone conference line number: (888) 494-4032 and entering access code: 795-179-0918.

The proceeds from the sale of the Series 2024 Bonds will be loaned to The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, an Illinois not for profit corporation (the “*Zoo*”), and will be used by the Zoo, together with certain other funds, to (i) refund the outstanding principal amount of the Illinois Finance Authority Revenue Refunding Bond, Series 2017B (The Lincoln Park Zoological Society) (the “*Series 2017B Bond*”) and (ii) pay certain costs relating to the issuance of the Series 2024 Bonds and the refunding of the Series 2017B Bond, all as permitted under the Illinois Finance Authority Act, as supplemented and amended (the “*Act*”).

The Series 2017A Bonds, as reissued for federal tax purposes, will be treated as currently refunding the outstanding Series 2017A Bonds.

The proceeds from the sale of the Series 2017A Bonds and the Series 2017B Bonds (collectively, the “*Series 2017 Bonds*”) were used by the Zoo, together with certain other funds, to (i) refinance, refund, advance refund, or provide for the payment of a portion of the outstanding Illinois Educational Facilities Authority Commercial Paper Revenue Notes (Pooled Financing Program) issued for the benefit of the Zoo (the “*Prior Notes*”) and (ii) pay certain costs incurred in connection with the issuance of the Series 2017 Bonds and the refinancing of the Prior Notes.

The proceeds of the sale of the Prior Notes have been issued from time to time for the benefit of certain Illinois not-for-profit corporations, including among others, the Zoo, The University of Chicago Medical Center (formerly known as The University of Chicago Hospitals), and Endeavor Health (formerly known as NorthShore University Health System). The Zoo used a portion of the proceeds of the Series 2017 Bonds to refinance, refund, advance refund or provide for the payment of that portion of the outstanding Prior Notes heretofore issued for its benefit. The

Zoo used such proceeds of the Prior Notes to (i) finance, refinance or reimburse itself for all or a portion of the costs of the acquisition, design, development, construction, renovation, remodeling and equipping of certain of its “cultural facilities,” as defined in the Act, including, without limitation, the construction, renovation and equipping of animal exhibits and habitats, visitor centers, educational and conservation centers and related landscaping, lighting and signage improvements, (ii) pay a portion of the interest on the Prior Notes and (iii) pay certain costs relating to the issuance of the Prior Notes and the credit enhancement thereof.

The initial owner, operator or manager of the facilities being financed or refinanced with the proceeds of the Bonds is the Zoo and such facilities are and will be located on land owned by the Chicago Park District known as the Lincoln Park Zoological Gardens (and commonly referred to as the “*Lincoln Park Zoo*”), having an address of 2200 North Cannon Drive, Chicago, Illinois, and generally bordered, more or less, by Fullerton Parkway on the north, Cannon Drive on the east, public park land on the south and Stockton Drive on the west, all within the City of Chicago, Illinois. The Zoo has the right to use and operate such facilities and occupy such land through December 31, 2049, pursuant to the terms of an Operating Agreement Regarding the Lincoln Park Zoological Gardens dated as of January 1, 1995, as amended by an Amendment and Extension to Operating Agreement dated May 13, 2019, each between the Chicago Park District and the Zoo.

The Bonds are special, limited obligations of the Authority, payable solely out of the revenues and other funds pledged and assigned for their payment in accordance with one or more bond and loan agreements among the Zoo, the Authority and one or more purchasers of the Bonds, pursuant to which the Bonds are issued and/or reissued. The Bonds will not constitute a debt of the Authority, the State of Illinois, or any political subdivision thereof within the meaning of any provisions of the Constitution or statutes of the State of Illinois or a pledge of the faith and credit of the Authority, the State of Illinois, or any political subdivision thereof, or grant to the owners thereof any right to have the Authority, the General Assembly of the State of Illinois or any political subdivision of the State of Illinois levy any taxes or appropriate any funds for the payment of the principal thereof or interest thereon. The Authority has no taxing power.

The above notice of public hearing is required by Section 147(f) of the Code. At the time and place set for the public hearing, residents, taxpayers and other interested persons will be given the opportunity to express their views for or against the proposed plan of finance. In addition, residents, taxpayers and other interested persons that attend the public hearing telephonically by dialing into the toll-free telephone conference line number noted above will be given the opportunity to express their views for or against the proposed plan of finance at a designated point in the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to the Executive Director of the Authority via (i) email at publiccomments@il-fa.com or (ii) mail at the Authority’s office located at 160 North LaSalle Street, Suite S-1000, Chicago, Illinois 60601 until October 2, 2024.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“*ADA*”), if any person with a disability as defined by the ADA needs special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, then not later than October 3, 2024, he or she should contact the Authority at (312) 651-1300.

NOTICE DATED: September 24, 2024

By /s/ Christopher Meister
Executive Director,
Illinois Finance Authority