



# VILLAGE OF MAYWOOD

40 MADISON STREET, MAYWOOD, IL 60153 - [www.Maywood-IL.org](http://www.Maywood-IL.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Village of Maywood Partners with the National League of Cities to Reduce Harmful Effects of Municipal Fines & Fees Working to Address High Property Taxes**

The Village of Maywood is proud to join a new peer-learning cohort led by the National League of Cities' (NLC) to reduce the inequitable and harmful impacts of fines and fees on residents' financial health. Maywood, IL joins seven other cities across the nation as part of the Cities Addressing Fines and Fees Equitably (CAFEE) initiative.

Participating cities will engage in peer learning opportunities, virtual and in person. In addition, participants will receive tailored technical assistance from NLC staff and national content experts to help advance the city's efforts in expanding economic opportunities for low-to-moderate-income families through policy reforms and access to financial services.

"The Village of Maywood is the highest taxed community in Chicagoland's Western Suburbs of Cook County and of the 1,300 cities/towns/villages in the State of Illinois we are among the top taxed statewide. I am happy NLC along with JP Morgan Chase is providing resources, funding, and expertise to finally address this issue that has plagued our community for decades. To know we are the only community selected with less than 100K in population truly highlights the gravity of the issue and notes how there are so many other smaller communities that can benefit from the awareness and outcomes", said **Maywood Village President, Mayor Nathaniel George Booker**

The initial planning phase of the work will begin followed by project implementation. This will cover support for data collection and analysis from external partners, stakeholder engagement with community organizations, residents, and other partners. In Moving Maywood Forward Together, the village will implement innovative financial empowerment approaches to help our residents, businesses, and regional competitiveness.

"Local fines and fees create a disproportionate amount of financial shocks to underserved communities, especially communities of color. Finding sustainable and equitable solutions to them will be key as communities continue to navigate the impact of the pandemic, said **Sarah Willis-Ertur, Head of Financial Health, Global Philanthropy at JPMorgan Chase**.

"NLC has been a leader in this space, helping cities recognize their critical role in building financial security and supporting financial empowerment among residents. We are pleased to launch a new phase of this program at a time when cities are examining how fines and fees impact their most vulnerable residents," said **NLC CEO and Executive Director Clarence Anthony**.

Mayor Booker also cited, "many historically Black communities have been destroyed due to high property taxes once the family home has been passed down to the next generation. Annual property taxes should not be as much as paying rent. When an elder dies and leaves the home, they paid off to the family, too many times the family cannot afford the property taxes". Multiple cities have implemented strategies to address these negative impacts, including reforming fines and fee structures and enacting ability-to-pay policies as an alternative solution.

In addition to Maywood, the seven other cities joining the project include Birmingham, Alabama; Dallas, Texas; Las Vegas, Nevada; Maywood, Illinois; Montgomery, Alabama; Pueblo, Colorado; St. Louis, Missouri; and Washington, D.C. Maywood is the only city selected by NLC with a population of less than 100K. This cohort program runs from January 2023 through February 2024 and is supported by JPMorgan Chase.

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**VILLAGE PRESIDENT, Mayor Nathaniel George Booker**  
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