March 14, 2018

The Honorable Kurt Summers
Treasurer
City of Chicago
121 North LaSalle Street
City Hall, Room 106
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Treasurer Summers:

The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) applauds you for putting forth legislation to amend the City Treasurer’s Office’s (CTO) investment policy to allow for the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into your investment decision making and ownership practices as well as to become a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Investment.

The PRI is the world’s leading initiative on responsible investment with over 1,900 investor signatories in more than 50 countries around the world, collectively managing over $70 trillion in assets under management. PRI signatories acknowledge the materiality of ESG factors to investment performance and their role in promoting long term sustainable financial systems.

The adoption of your proposal would enable you to better fulfill your fiduciary duties to the residents of Chicago as their Treasurer. Research on the effects of ESG integration demonstrates that applying responsible investment practices can help improve risk-adjusted returns and align investor behaviour with the broader objectives of society.

As the third-largest city in the United States, your decision to adopt an ESG integration approach will set a precedent for responsible investment within the global investment community and will serve as a model for others to follow.

Your leadership on this issue is commendable. We are excited about your commitment to the PRI and stand ready to assist in implementation efforts.

Sincerely,

Fiona Reynolds
Managing Director
Principles for Responsible Investment
Cc:
Dean Alonistiotis
Nathan Fabian
Chris Fowle
Joy Frascinella
Carol Jeppesen
Will Martindale
Jenny Waits
Tripp Wellde