



prncoalition@gmail.com

(773) 245-3389

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Chicago, Illinois**

For Immediate Release-

**The People's Response Network (PRN) Urges Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson to Save Lives
Now Before it is too Late-**

**Open Warming Centers 24/7 & Send CTA Buses to the Unhoused & Those without Heat to
Save Lives from Extreme Cold**

For the next 3 days, Chicago's wind chill will be below zero, down to -24 degrees.

Frostbite, which can lead to gangrene and loss of fingers and/or toes and/or ears and/or noses, can occur in less than 30 minutes.

Hypothermia, which can cause serious illness or death, will also occur rapidly.

While Cook County opens 3 warming centers, 24/7 during this time, the City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management & Communications (OEMC) once again refuses to open any, the same deadly action it took during the 2019 Polar Vortex and many other times during both extreme cold & heat waves.

Instead it will open warming centers only 9-5 each day except for 10 S. Kedzie

It is critical that in dangerous weather, the City immediately take life-saving actions to stop preventable deaths and serious illnesses and injuries from deadly cold temperatures, snow, ice, and wind chill.

This includes immediately sending out CTA warming buses for the unhoused and those whose homes have inadequate heat and opening up all 6 city warming centers, libraries and other public buildings 24/7 tonight, Monday, and Tuesday until Wednesday.

The city warming centers, libraries, and other public buildings should **not** kick out people for falling asleep.

Police officers should **not** remove unhoused people who fall asleep on CTA buses or trains.

Tonight we call on Mayor Johnson to use his authority to immediately override OEMC's deadly extreme weather policies and to **strip** OEMC permanently of all **oversight and decision making for climate change, other environmental disasters, health emergencies, housing and immigrant crises.**