Fact Sheet:
The Milshire Hotel, Supportive Housing and the effort to preserve Chicago's SRO (single room occupancy) buildings

What's happening at the Milshire Hotel?

The Milshire Hotel's long-time owner, Art Fischoff, announced his decision to close the hotel, located at 2525 N. Milwaukee, in late April. In early September, 18 Milshire households moved out of the hotel, receiving relocation assistance under a settlement that they negotiated through their tenants union, with help from the Lawyers Committee for Better Housing and several local organizations and leaders. Several tenants who were not part of the settlement are still living in the building.

Developer Mark Fishman still appears poised to buy the Milshire from Fischoff. Fischoff and Fishman have declined to meet with community organizations. Fischoff has also not replied to a letter from Alderman Scott Waguespack.

What is 'Supportive Housing'? What would it mean for the Milshire?

Supportive housing targets people who are steadily working their way out of homelessness. It combines affordable apartments with on-site social services. In several cases, for-profit SROs have been renovated into non-profit supportive housing.

Rehabbing the Milshire as affordable supportive housing would mean converting its 78 small rooms into roughly 35 high-quality apartments, each with its own bathroom. The building would be completely renovated, the quality of management would improve and rents would likely go <u>down</u>, allowing tenants to save more of their incomes. And the Milshire's location would give its residents excellent access to rapid transit, community services and a wide variety of job opportunities.

Renaissance Social Services, Inc., which manages several buildings in and near Logan Square, is ready to purchase and rehab the Milshire as affordable, supportive housing if the building is put on the market.

Why is the City considering an SRO Preservation Ordinance?

SROs provide an alternative to homelessness for thousands of Chicagoans. But over the last several years, many of these buildings have been lost in conversions to upscale housing. The threat to single-room-occupancy (SRO) buildings like the Milshire was demonstrated

earlier this month with the sale of the 66-unit North Hotel, 1622 N. California, to Flats Chicago, which specializes in converting SROs to upscale housing.

In September 2014, Mayor Emanuel reached an agreement with the Chicago For All Campaign and a group of Aldermanic sponsors on a "**Single-Room Occupancy (SRO) and Residential Hotel Preservation Ordinance**," which the Mayor introduced into City Council on Sept. 10. It's also known as the **Chicago For All Ordinance**.

The ordinance would require purchasers of SRO buildings to make at least 20 percent of their units affordable to low- or very low-income tenants – or pay a significant fee into a fund for supportive housing development. The City Council is currently considering the ordinance.   One this is clear – we'll need strong leadership by our community and our public officials to ensure that the Milshire is preserved.

Community petition drive (online & in person)**:**

We're collecting signatures from residents of greater Logan Square to demonstrate the widespread community support for rehabbing the Milshire as 100% quality, affordable supportive housing.

The petition is **available online** at http://bit.ly/Milshire. If you'd like to gather signatures on paper in your organization, church or school, let us know; we can send you the petition form in English and Spanish.

For more information / Get involved!

For more information – or to get involved – contact John at the Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) at (773) 384-4370 x38 or at jmcdermott@lsna.net.

'Logan Square For All' – sponsoring organizations:

Logan Square Neighborhood Association
Logan Square Ecumenical Alliance
Somos Logan Square
Metropolitan Tenants Organization
Chicago for All Coalition