Rahm hails Archer Ave. repaving

Credits Tabares with successfully pushing project

By Tim Hadac



With a construction vehicle and the iconic Rainbow Motel sign behind them, Mayor Emanuel and 23rd Ward Ald. Silvana Tabares share a lighter moment as they walk east on Archer, towards last week's press conference at Nordica. – *Photo by Mary Hadac*

Two days after the last gasp of a stubborn winter ended, Chicago's second season—construction—began on Archer Avenue, in the west end of Garfield Ridge.

With the noise of heavy equipment chewing up the old street behind him, Mayor Rahm Emanuel last Wednesday came to Archer and Nordica to launch what he called "paving season" across the city.

Emanuel and other city officials announced that Archer Avenue will be repaved, from Nagle on the east to Nottingham on the west. Work is expected to wrap up by the end of May.

In his remarks, Emanuel did not say why the city is leaving out the stretch from Nottingham to Harlem, or from Nagle to Narragansett; but a Chicago Department of Transportation spokesman later told the Clear-Ridge Reporter & NewsHound that Nottingham to Harlem was paved in 2014 "and is in better shape than the rest of [Archer], so it's not included in this project. We are holding off on Nagle to Narragansett to accommodate a Department of Water Management (sewer) project that is slated to start in 2020 and end in 2021 – so it will be fully restored and repaved by 2021."

The stretch of Archer "will be fully resurfaced through a federally-funded project," officials said in a statement. "The scope of work also includes new CTA bus pads, new pavement markings with thermoplastic, high-visibility striping and the reconstruction of sidewalk crossings to meet ADA standards."

Emanuel credited 23rd Ward Ald. Silvana Tabares with the resurfacing project.

"When she became alderman (in June 2018), she had three requests on her punch list," the mayor said. "One, open up the addition at Byrne Elementary School. We cut the ribbon on that in September. Two, get Dore

See ARCHER, Page 9

ARCHER

Continued from Page 1

Elementary School—a whole new school that's not far from here—open. Done. And [third], because Archer is the heart of the Southwest Side, to get what was a pothole-filled street fully paved. Paving is permanent. Potholes you just fill, and they're miserable.

"So," the mayor said as he looked at a smiling Tabares, "your wish is our command."

The mayor also said that repaving city streets means more than fresh asphalt and smoother motoring.

Just before the press conference began, Emanuel stopped to shake a few hands, including that of a young man who had participated in the city's One Summer Chicago jobs program.

"He told me he was not in school, so I was giving him my fatherly lecture to get him back in school and to finish his schooling," the mayor said. "He promised me he would and get his high school degree...but I want to give a sense of... while we're going to pave Archer Avenue...it also gives young men and women the opportunity to get a good job, a good-paying job," he said as gestured at the yellow-vested worker behind him. "One Summer Chicago is part of making sure that when [high school students] are out of school, they have something productive and meaningful in their life...so this is more than just paving a street. This is economic opportunity, a job creator."

Recapping his tenure as mayor, Emanuel added that over the last eight years, his administration has paved so many city streets, "it's from here to San Diego and slightly beyond."

The city's goal this year is to repave 315 miles of streets and alleys, about the same as last year.