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## Housing in Chicago: Pushing out the poor?

*Geoff Smith: Low-income areas are losing affordable housing due to decades of economic disinvestment and discrimination.*



Chicago's new mayor faces an uphill battle preserving affordable housing [Kamil Krzaczynski/ Reuters]

By Anne Bouleanu

29 May 2019



**Chicago, United States** – Newly sworn-in Mayor of Chicago [Lori Lightfoot](#) ran on a campaign that promised change for everyday Chicagoans. Pursuing office as an outsider without decades of connection to the Chicago political machine, Lightfoot [pledged](#) to address Chicago's growing housing affordability gap.

Now in her first days as mayor, Lightfoot has appointed Marisa Novara to head Chicago's Department of Housing. The department will operate as a stand-alone government entity for the first time in 11 years, a decision that was made during the final months of former Mayor Rahm Emanuel's administration. Novara comes from the Metropolitan Planning Council, where she headed the Cost of Segregation initiative and has advocated for proposals that would address the housing affordability gap across the city.

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