



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

July 12, 2021

Dear Government Finance Officers Association members:

One of my favorite privileges of serving as Mayor of Chicago is the chance to welcome guests from all over the country and world to our great city.

Shortly after becoming Mayor in 2019, I learned that the Government Finance Officers Association had selected Chicago as the host of its 2021 Annual Conference. I was looking forward to the event from the moment I heard this news. Unfortunately, as you know, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 forced the conference to be held virtually this year instead.

Thankfully, however, through our collective hard work, patience, and cooperation, we are so close to putting this remote paradigm behind us and being able to gather once more.

In fact, on June 11, 2021, Chicago entered the final stage – Phase 5 – of its pandemic plan, making it the largest city in the United States to fully reopen, lifting virtually all mandatory capacity limits and social distancing requirements. So, while the timing with GFOA's Annual Conference was slightly mismatched this year, Chicago is indeed back, and our future together looks bright.

As GFOA's hometown, Chicago looks forward to welcoming you all in June 2026 for the 120th GFOA Annual Conference. I am excited to see how much progress we make together between now and then. I would like to personally invite each of you to visit Chicago prior to June 2026 and enjoy all of its exceptional features that, in my mind, make it the greatest city in the world.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very successful virtual 2021 conference over the next two weeks. I have no doubt you will make the most of it.

Thank you for all you do to make our cities, states, and country a better place to live. I look forward to seeing you all in Chicago soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori E. Lightfoot".

Mayor