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Civic Consulting Alliance Announces Brian Fabes to Conclude His Role as CEO

National search for successor will be conducted

CHICAGO – After nearly 15 years as Chief Executive Officer of the Civic Consulting Alliance, leading significant initiatives with clients across the public and civic spheres and working with pro bono partners to provide more than \$175 million in pro bono services, Brian Fabes will step down from his role once his successor is onboard.

During his tenure, the Civic Consulting Alliance staff has grown tenfold and its teams have worked with nearly every major unit of local government on fundamental reforms. The Civic Consulting Alliance, an affiliate organization of the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago, is the regional engine of public-private collaboration and a truly unique civic resource.

“Brian’s leadership has been fundamental to the success of the Civic Consulting Alliance,” said Kelly R. Welsh, President of the Civic Committee. “He and his team have contributed in countless ways to make Chicago a great, global city and his commitment to improving the lives of everyone in our region cannot be underestimated.”

Recently, Civic Consulting Alliance and more than a dozen of their partners helped Mayor Lightfoot transition into office. “Brian and the team did a yeoman’s job in helping to set up our transition office, source talent, and keep us on track during the transition,” said Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot. “As our administration began, CCA’s support extended to working on violence response over the summer and standing up a fully-functional Mayor’s Office. Throughout these partnerships, and others stretching back years and including the Police Accountability Task Force and a host of civic-minded functions, I have valued Brian’s vision, strategic thinking, and overwhelming belief in the power of Chicagoans. Brian and CCA are invaluable resources for our city and Brian’s leadership will be deeply missed.”

Under Fabes’ leadership, Civic Consulting Alliance, its clients and pro bono partners have led many impactful efforts over the past decade, including:

- Reforms in education, such as
 - Revamp of career and technical education programs at the Chicago Public Schools, impacting more than 20,000 high school students annually
 - Expansion of early college and dual enrollment programs at CPS and the City Colleges of Chicago
 - Launch of multiple career academies, including five early college STEM schools
 - Development and launch of Reinvention at the City Colleges, leading to a three-fold increase in graduation rates at our local community college system
- Initiatives in economic vitality, such as
 - Launch of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
 - A new vision for the redevelopment of Navy Pier
 - Development of Chicago Career Tech, which became Skills for Chicagoland’s Future

- Creation of Choose Chicago
- Paid sick leave in Chicago and Cook County for the workers who need it most
- Merger of three workforce boards to create the Chicago-Cook Workforce Partnership
- Launch, management, and growth of West Side United, with the goal of cutting in half the Death Gap on the West Side of Chicago by 2030
- Fundamental reform in the Cook County Assessor's Office
- Public safety and criminal justice reforms, such as:
 - Bond Court reform, leading to nearly 50% reduction of the number detained every day in Cook County Jail, while increasing prosecution of those who represent a public safety risk
 - Development and management of the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities, a collaborative of more than 45 foundations who are aligning more than \$75 million in grantmaking to reduce gun violence and increase police legitimacy in Chicago
 - Reform of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability and the Chicago Police Department, including helping stand up the new Office of Community Policing within CPD
 - Expansion of the Mayor's Office of Public Safety
- Transition planning and execution for two Governors, two Mayors, the Cook County Board President, State's Attorney, and other elected officials
- Transformation of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System after the passage of the Affordable Care Act, and many more.

In keeping with his outstanding commitment to the organization, Fabes will stay in his role until his successor is onboard. The Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago has retained Koya Leadership Partners to conduct a national search for a new CEO who will help bring Civic Consulting Alliance into its next phase.

“We are extremely grateful to Brian for his many years of exemplary service,” said Deborah L. DeHaas, Chair of the Civic Consulting Alliance Board. “The organization has never been stronger, and we are optimistic this transition will provide an opportunity for even greater impact in the future. We are confident we will attract strong candidates for the role and look forward to seeing what they will bring to the future of the organization.”

Prior to joining Civic Consulting in 2005, Fabes was Senior Vice President at National Louis University. Before that, he led the formation and growth of the North American Product Development Practice and was a leader in Chicago's Healthcare Practice while at McKinsey & Company. Fabes started his career at the University of Arizona, where he was a tenured faculty member in the College of Engineering.

Fabes was motivated to make this move after leading the development of Civic Consulting Alliance's comprehensive strategic plan and recognizing the time was right for a new leader given the record of accomplishment and current strength of the organization.

“I'm extremely proud of everything our team has accomplished over the past 15 years. The success of Civic Consulting Alliance is a reflection of the extraordinary commitment of Chicago's business community to this region and the incredible people who have worked here over the years,” said Fabes. “I don't think I'll ever love a job more. However, it's the right time, for me and for the organization. And I believe we all have a responsibility to give others a chance to lead.”

In his next endeavor, Fabes plans to pursue some of his many interests, such as his passion for helping the business community address economic inequities and reducing gun violence.

About Civic Consulting Alliance

Civic Consulting Alliance's mission is to make Chicago a great region for everyone to live in and work. By leveraging the support of the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago (collectively the major private employers in the region) with incomparable professional resources and committed leaders and funders, the Civic Consulting Alliance helps to address the region's most pressing problems and greatest opportunities.

At no cost to the taxpayer, Civic Consulting Alliance works with clients – the Mayor, County Board President, Police Superintendent, foundation presidents and other leaders – who commit to advancing significant reforms and are willing to collaborate on large-scale change. With these leaders, Civic Consulting Alliance stages a series of projects that lead to results. Together, they accomplish more than any one firm or sector can on its own.

In Fiscal Year 2019, 50 partner firms provided *pro bono* support to 66 cross-sector projects in four Platform areas: Education, Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Economic Vitality. Collectively, Civic Consulting Alliance and its partners provided more than \$13 million in services.

About Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago

In 1983, the Commercial Club commissioned a study of the economic well-being of the Chicago metropolitan area. The study concluded that Chicago was experiencing a gradual erosion of its economic vitality. In response, the Club formed its Civic Committee to undertake projects to bolster core industries and pursue new economic opportunities for the region.

The Civic Committee is comprised of senior executives of the Chicago region's leading employers. Its mission is to make our region a better place for everyone to live, work, and do business. The Civic Committee establishes task forces and committees to undertake studies, develop recommendations, and works to address key policy issues confronting the Chicago region. In addition, the Civic Committee holds meetings and events throughout the year to discuss its programs and to hear from speakers on key policy issues.

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