

## Lightfoot, Heavy Hand

January 17, 2023

When you're right,  
you're right.

And all of Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot's critics are right that it was wrong for Lightfoot's [deserves-to-fail](#) reelection campaign to [solicit teachers to solicit students](#) of the city's public schools to work for her reelection campaign in exchange for class credit.

A former city inspector general called the move "deeply, deeply problematic." Local teachers union honchos called it a "shakedown" and "exploitative and wrong."

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Mayoral election challenger Brandon Johnson called it "outrageous, desperate, and downright unethical," an abuse of power.

This may be a case of Corruption Grade B rather than Grade A if, as seems slightly possible, nobody on Lightfoot's team understood that they were crossing another line in the endless saga of incumbents' shameless misuse of government-



controlled resources for political gain.

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Eventually, they ended up saying that out of an "abundance of caution, we will cease contact with [public school] employees." Then that campaign staff were being admonished about the "solid wall" that must exist between the campaign and "contacts" with noncampaign government employees.

Is enlisting public school teachers to enlist public school students to help an incumbent mayor's reelection campaign really so very different from other abuses we have seen before, especially in a [super-corrupt town](#) like Chicago?

It doesn't change the fact that *when you're wrong, you're wrong*.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.