

(Published by the Authority of the City Council of the City of Chicago)

**COPY**



**JOURNAL of the PROCEEDINGS  
of the  
CITY COUNCIL  
of the  
CITY of CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

---

Special Meeting -- Wednesday, October 15, 2003

at 10:00 A.M.

(Council Chambers -- City Hall -- Chicago, Illinois)

---

**OFFICIAL RECORD.**

**RICHARD M. DALEY**  
Mayor

**JAMES J. LASKI**  
City Clerk

**Attendance At Meeting.**

*Present* -- The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, and Aldermen Flores, Haithcock, Tillman, Preckwinkle, Hairston, Lyle, Beavers, Stroger, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Cárdenas, Olivo, Burke, T. Thomas, L. Thomas, Murphy, Rugai, Troutman, Brookins, Muñoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Solis, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Carothers, Reboyas, Suarez, Matlak, Mell, Austin, Colón, Banks, Mitts, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Doherty, Natarus, Daley, Tunney, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Moore, Stone.

*Absent* -- Alderman Coleman.

---

**Call To Order.**

On Wednesday, October 15, 2003 at 10:00 A.M., The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, called the City Council to order. The clerk called the roll of members and it was found that there were present at that time: Aldermen Flores, Haithcock, Tillman, Preckwinkle, Hairston, Lyle, Beavers, Stroger, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Cárdenas, Olivo, Burke, T. Thomas, L. Thomas, Murphy, Rugai, Troutman, Brookins, Muñoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Solis, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Carothers, Reboyas, Suarez, Matlak, Mell, Austin, Colón, Banks, Mitts, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Doherty, Natarus, Daley, Tunney, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Moore, Stone -- 49.

Quorum present.

---

**Pledge Of Allegiance.**

Alderman Solis led the City Council and assembled guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Invocation.**

Father Tom Belton, Pastor of Maternity B.V.M. Church, opened the meeting with prayer.

---

*Placed On File -- CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING.*

The Honorable James J. Laski, City Clerk, informed the City Council that the following call for a special meeting was filed in his office on October 10, 2003 at 9:23 A.M.:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 9, 2003.

*Honorable James J. Laski  
City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 107  
121 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602*

DEAR MR. LASKI -- I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Chicago, to be convened at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, October 15, 2003, in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, for the following purposes and for no other purpose whatsoever:

1. to receive the Executive Budget for the year beginning January 1, 2004, and ending December 31, 2004, and the Mayor's Budget Message relating thereto; and
2. to receive the Year XXX Community Development Block Grant Recommendations; and

10/15/2003

SPECIAL MEETING

9457

3. to consider a resolution calling for publication of the Executive Budget and setting the date, time and place of the public hearing on the Executive Budget.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) RICHARD M. DALEY,  
*Mayor.*

---

*Referred -- EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR YEAR 2004.*

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, submitted the following communication which was, together with the Overview, Budget Recommendations, Program and Budget Summary, Draft Action Plan and Revenue Estimates for fiscal year 2004, *Referred to the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations:*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 15, 2003.

*To the Honorable, The City Council of the City of Chicago:*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- I transmit herewith the proposed 2004 Budget Recommendations and the Year XXX Community Development Block Grant Recommendations.

Your favorable consideration of these items will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) RICHARD M. DALEY,  
*Mayor.*

**BUDGET ADDRESS OF  
THE HONORABLE RICHARD M. DALEY, MAYOR.**

Together, we have made great progress all across Chicago over the last fourteen years.

We see revitalized neighborhoods with a better quality of life. . .

A rebirth of downtown. . .

And a city government that is better managed to protect taxpayers and invest in our people and neighborhoods.

But today, I come before you at the most challenging time our city has faced since I've been Mayor.

And I want to be clear with the people of Chicago about where things stand.

The balanced budget I present today is the most difficult and challenging that I have prepared.

Our nation's economic slowdown continues. It has affected every city and state, and has forced us to cut spending for the last three years.

It has also affected every family and every citizen.

Our city's revenues have not improved in the last year.

Thankfully, our housing market, which has generated strong revenues from the transfer tax, remains healthy. But how long will that continue?

Because we anticipated the nation's economic slowdown, over the last four years we have cut spending by \$200 million on an annual basis.

But as we continue to work our way through this uncertain economy, we must cut even more, and manage government even better.

And with salaries and health care composing more than 80 percent of our corporate budget, we must place that spending under even tighter control.

All this comes at a time when I know that many property taxpayers are hard-pressed.

But, despite these challenges we cannot afford to let Chicago fall behind.

Chicago has always been a city that confronts its challenges head-on, and at this difficult time, I know we will continue to.

There is still more to be done before our city works for every neighborhood and every resident.

Not every problem in our city has been solved. Not all our potential has been realized.

The balanced budget I present to you today addresses the challenge of a tough economy, makes the difficult choices to cut spending, and still invests to keep Chicago moving forward.

It won't be easy. The reality is, because revenues are slow, we can't afford to make every new investment that some people might want.

But by improving the day-to-day management of government, cutting spending and tapping limited new sources of revenue, we can afford to invest to improve the lives of people and empower communities to realize their visions for a better future.

We will continue to work in Springfield and Washington, D.C. to get our fair share of funding and to remove the financial burden of unfunded mandates.

But government can't do everything.

At this challenging time, more than ever, we need all Chicago -- our families, businesses, churches, community groups -- to work together to help provide the services our people need, but that government alone cannot afford to provide.

We can start by working together with businesses, community groups and Springfield to help make Chicago more affordable for people of every background, income and age.

We have a strong record. Over the last fourteen years, we have provided property tax relief to those who need it most -- long-time homeowners, seniors and low-income Chicagoans, all of whom are the backbone of our city.

We created the Chicago Tax Assistance Center, which has helped almost 30,000 residents obtain hundreds of thousands of dollars of tax refunds and tax relief. We've limited city property tax increases to an average of a little more than one percent a year.

We have encouraged homeowners to appeal their tax bills and reassessment notices if they believe they are too high.

And, the city is working aggressively to assure that downtown businesses pay their fair share of property taxes and receive no special treatment.

I know that many people are upset about the higher property taxes they will be asked to pay next year because of higher property assessments this year.

I am most concerned about seniors, long-time residents, working families and the poor, especially those whose assessments increased unfairly this year.

Over the long haul, they will benefit considerably from the rising values of their homes. But next year, because of the reassessment, many will be hit with sharply higher property taxes -- and many may not be able to pay them.

Over the years, these and other homeowners and businesses have supported our efforts to invest in neighborhood improvements, and I believe they need a break.

So in next year's budget, we will continue to deliver city services, improve neighborhood quality of life, create more affordable housing, make our city safer and create more after-school and summer programs for our children -- without raising city property taxes.

Even beyond that, we can do more to protect our property taxpayers.

Last week, I announced that we will work in Springfield to pass a package of reforms to simplify the reassessment system and provide more property tax relief to those who need it most.

We want homeowners to have more time to appeal their reassessments if they believe they are too high.

We want to protect those who invest in home improvements from dramatically higher reassessments and property taxes.

We will seek to increase the homeowner exemption for everyone, and increase it even more for seniors and low-income residents.

Our proposals would save up to \$100 a year for a low-income homeowner, and up to \$200 a year for low-income seniors with assessment increases of more than 20 percent.

This may not seem like much to some people, but this is welcome relief to people who are on tight budgets, or working hard just to make ends meet. And the overall cost of these proposals is minimal.

What we really need, of course, is fundamental property tax reform in Illinois.

When is the State finally going to accept its full responsibility under our State Constitution to provide the majority of funding for education?

Today, local property taxpayers provide 59 percent of the funds for education. The state pays only 33 percent and the federal government only 8 percent.

Two weeks ago, along with members of the Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus, we announced a campaign to reform the way the State funds education.

Our goal is to reduce the burden for local property taxpayers and get the State to assume its responsibility for our schools.

Our success in Springfield isn't guaranteed, but we owe it to our hard-working taxpayers to do all we can to protect them.

We also owe it to the people of our city to build on our strong record and work with the private sector, community groups and the state and federal governments to provide even more affordable housing across Chicago.

Since 1989, as a result of our two five-year housing plans and other housing programs, we've invested more than \$3 billion in affordable housing programs and funded more than 100,000 affordable homes and apartments.

Through good management and by working with community groups across our city, we exceeded the goals of our most recent plan by more than \$300 million, enabling us to fund 10,000 more units of affordable housing than expected.

These efforts have helped increase the homeownership rate from 41 to 44 percent in our city, with the largest increases among Latinos and African Americans.

We will build on that progress through our third comprehensive five-year housing plan.

Today I want to announce that over the next five years we will work with community groups across the city and invest almost \$1.9 billion in local, state and federal funds to create another 48,000 affordable homes and apartments across Chicago.

This is \$300 million more than we've invested in the last four years.

Next year, we also expect to use \$10 million in T.I.F. funds to help create and preserve more than 880 affordable housing units.

We will invest an additional \$6 million to rehabilitate multi-family and single-family homes and create affordable rental units.



And through our expanded Troubled Buildings Initiative, we will use approximately \$3 million of those dollars to stabilize and preserve 900 units of affordable housing. This includes 100 vacant single-family homes.

Through our partnership with Neighborhood Housing Services, a local non-profit organization, we will leverage \$25 million in private funds to help 600 people purchase and improve their homes.

And the Department of Housing will issue \$15 million more in tax-exempt bonds than the previous year, bringing the total amount of bonds for affordable housing next year to \$150 million.

We'll create even more affordable housing as a result of our ordinance requiring builders to offer affordable units in any housing development that receives City financing or city-subsidized land.

And we will go to Springfield to seek passage of legislation to provide \$5 million directly to our Low-Income Housing Trust Fund so that we can help another 1,250 people rent apartments.

Since all the funds would be targeted to very low-income Chicagoans, this legislation would become an important part of the Plan to End Homelessness.

This plan recognizes that providing temporary shelter is not enough.

Instead, we are creating a system that moves people quickly into permanent housing and provides social services to address the problems that caused them to become homeless in the first place.

A few months ago, we announced the community organizations we will partner with to create 659 units of single-room-occupancy housing, complete with social services to help residents rebuild their lives.

We will also build 90 units of supportive housing for families; preserve 1,000 S.R.O. units through targeted investments; and develop transitional housing for C.H.A. non-leaseholders to move them toward permanent housing.

Next year, we will invest more than \$1.3 million in federal funds to implement a system to better track services to the more than 15,000 people who find themselves homeless on any given day. We also will expand services to homeless young people.

And by the end of next year, our Grandfamilies program will open 10 more homes for families with children raised by grandparents, bringing the total number of these homes to 14.

If Chicago's quality of life is to continue to improve, we must continue to make the investments in infrastructure that improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

For the last fourteen years, in good economic times and bad, we've invested to improve the infrastructure all across our city.

Good infrastructure makes our neighborhoods places where people want to live and businesses want to locate.

In next year's budget we will continue to work with each of you here today and build on our commitment to improve the neighborhood infrastructure of our city.

Despite the slow economy we will invest another \$195 million, the same as last year, in Neighborhoods Alive, our menu program of neighborhood investments.

We will invest another \$150 million in our continuing efforts to improve Chicago's aging water and sewer infrastructure.

Citywide that means that we will resurface another 700 blocks of residential streets and another 300 blocks of alleys. We'll rebuild another 400 blocks of sidewalks and 300 blocks of curbs and gutters. We'll replace 50 miles of water grid mains and construct 11 miles of sewer and seven miles of sewer lining.

And we will deliver on our commitment to complete those police and fire stations and libraries that have been committed to under the current Neighborhoods Alive 21 program.

I'm proud to report that by the end of next year we will have built 10 new police and 4 new fire stations and built or fully renovated 40 libraries across Chicago.

What other city in the nation can match that record?

Next year, even in a slow economy, we can continue to invest in vital community anchors and improvements if we coordinate our T.I.F. districts with the next phase of Neighborhoods Alive 21.

For a good quality of life, we must also continue to protect our children -- make sure they receive a good education, starting early in life, and have positive and constructive alternatives available to them both after school and during the summer.

Years ago, we understood that we must provide our children with positive alternatives to a life of gangs, guns and drugs.

So we challenged our entire city -- schools, parks, libraries, community groups, places of worship and businesses -- to offer after-school and summer programs for

our children and teens.

As a result, every year, more opportunities have been provided for our children by the public and private sectors -- through programs like KidStart Summer Jobs, the Kraft Great Kids Initiative, NeighborSports, Step Up to High School, the Chicago Public Library's Summer Reading Program and Gallery 37.

Today, the City of Chicago, through its various departments and sister agencies, offers more than 212,000 after-school opportunities and more than 146,000 summer opportunities in neighborhoods all across Chicago.

Just a month ago, we announced that AfterSchool Matters, our highly regarded program for teenagers, will double its enrollment by the end of the current school year, when it expects to be serving 14,000 teenagers in 36 neighborhoods.

And in next year's budget we will invest an additional \$1.2 million to expand programs that directly serve teens in our most vulnerable neighborhoods. This is part of our total funding commitment of \$3.8 million for teen programs.

I have challenged the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Public Schools to do all they can to increase their commitment to these programs.

But there is more to be done for our children, especially the youngest ones.

I believe that every child, regardless of their economic, social or ethnic background should be given the same opportunity for a good education and a good life.

We know that learning begins at birth. And the earlier in life we involve our children in a positive environment, emphasizing education, the better they perform in school.

That's why I recently announced an expanded commitment to improve the health of our children and to provide more of them with high-quality learning opportunities, starting early in life. These commitments are continued in next year's budget.

The Chicago Department of Public Health will increase its home nurse visits from 11,000 to 17,000 a year, so that it can track the well-being of more infants.

They will also try to make sure that all children receive vision and hearing screenings by the first grade.

Beginning in January, every new mother in Chicago will receive an information packet containing the child's birth certificate and information on child development. These materials will be distributed to approximately 50,000 new mothers a year.

The Chicago Public Schools "Cradle to Classroom" program, which serves more than 4,000 teen mothers, will work with the Ounce of Prevention Fund to expand pre-natal and post-natal services to at-risk teen mothers.

We also want to expand the number of families whose children can participate in early childhood programs, such as Head Start.

Head Start has been recognized time and again as one of the nation's most successful efforts to provide children equal opportunities to learn. And for the most part, it has worked well.

But I believe it can be improved. So we will work with Congress to make the kinds of changes that will ensure Head Start is an option for more of our children.

Finally, so that we can better coordinate our children's programs and make them more effective, I propose that we create a new Chicago Department for Children and Youth Services, by consolidating programs now provided by several departments.

This department will be responsible for implementing City programs relating to early childhood and KidStart, our citywide effort to provide positive alternatives both after school and during the summer.

I am convinced that we can better provide services to our children through this new department, without increasing the bureaucracy or the cost of government.

To improve our quality of life, Chicago also must be a safer city.

While our city's overall crime rate, including violent crime, has dropped for each of the last fourteen years, there are still too many neighborhoods where violence, especially gangs, guns and drugs, are a part of everyday life.

And each of us shares the belief that one crime or one murder is one too many.

This is why, in the last few months, the Chicago Police Department has implemented several important new strategies to prevent violence and fight crime in every neighborhood, but especially in crime hot spots.

They have increased the size of the special operations force by creating the Targeted Response Unit, so that greater numbers of officers -- whether undercover or in uniform -- can saturate an area where crime is emerging and end it before it takes hold.

Our Police Department has deployed new gang and drug units in every police area of the city.

It has implemented Operation Disruption, a strategy using surveillance cameras to increase police presence in high-crime areas and fight gang and drug activity.

It has encouraged officers to get out of their cars and become more engaged with the public, so they can understand the unique challenges of the communities they serve.

Our officers continue to work in partnership with the U.S. Attorney and Cook County State's Attorney to expand Project Safe Neighborhoods, which targets armed career criminals for prosecution.

Already there are signs that these programs are working, but it's far too early to proclaim them a success.

They still need more time, with the support of the person I have nominated as our next Superintendent, Phil Cline.

Along with Superintendent Hillard, he has helped develop and implement the programs I've just mentioned.

As a commander of the Narcotics Section, as Chief of Detectives and then as First Deputy Superintendent, Phil has gained the experience, and developed the record, that makes him the right person at the right time to lead the Chicago Police Department.

He will be a Superintendent for all the people of our city, with a commitment to prevent violence and fight crime in every neighborhood, and I encourage you to support his nomination.

We will make our buildings safer by implementing a series of building code reforms in the wake of the E2 night club and Wrightwood Avenue disasters.

We must do all we can to make sure these types of tragedies never happen again.

We will also improve our fire safety next year.

The city will continue to equip fire engines and train staff to increase the number of engine companies that can provide Advanced Life Support services.

Five more engine companies will become ALS-equipped and staffed by the end of 2003, bringing the total to 40 engine companies. And more will be added in 2004.

Next year, the city expects to receive more than \$23 million from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in addition to the \$16 million we received this year.

It has implemented Operation Disruption, a strategy using surveillance cameras to increase police presence in high-crime areas and fight gang and drug activity.

It has encouraged officers to get out of their cars and become more engaged with the public, so they can understand the unique challenges of the communities they serve.

Our officers continue to work in partnership with the U.S. Attorney and Cook County State's Attorney to expand Project Safe Neighborhoods, which targets armed career criminals for prosecution.

Already there are signs that these programs are working, but it's far too early to proclaim them a success.

They still need more time, with the support of the person I have nominated as our next Superintendent, Phil Cline.

Along with Superintendent Hillard, he has helped develop and implement the programs I've just mentioned.

As a commander of the Narcotics Section, as Chief of Detectives and then as First Deputy Superintendent, Phil has gained the experience, and developed the record, that makes him the right person at the right time to lead the Chicago Police Department.

He will be a Superintendent for all the people of our city, with a commitment to prevent violence and fight crime in every neighborhood, and I encourage you to support his nomination.

We will make our buildings safer by implementing a series of building code reforms in the wake of the E2 night club and Wrightwood Avenue disasters.

We must do all we can to make sure these types of tragedies never happen again.

We will also improve our fire safety next year.

The city will continue to equip fire engines and train staff to increase the number of engine companies that can provide Advanced Life Support services.

Five more engine companies will become ALS-equipped and staffed by the end of 2003, bringing the total to 40 engine companies. And more will be added in 2004.

Next year, the city expects to receive more than \$23 million from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in addition to the \$16 million we received this year.

The money will reimburse the city for costs incurred during "orange alert" security levels, and for new equipment, including our new state-of-the-art communications van.

In addition, if our quality of life is to continue to improve in the future, we must take new steps to make Chicago even more attractive as a place to do business and to provide job training for those who need it.

Our jobs strategy has emphasized building and repairing our city's infrastructure including new schools, libraries, parks, streets and alleys across the city.

It has also included constructing major new projects -- the new Soldier Field, the new Millennium Park, and the reconstruction of Wacker Drive and South Lake Shore Drive.

This strategy has paid off, creating thousands of new jobs during this slow economy.

But this should be a federal priority, as well. When will Washington, D.C. finally realize that now, more than ever, we need to invest our own tax dollars in major projects to create new jobs in America?

Today, according to *World Business Chicago*, our economy continues to grow.

New housing is still being built across the city, helping generate new jobs during a tough time.

The Ford Supplier Campus on the south side has brought in 12 manufacturers from around the country.

Soon, Wrigley's Innovation Center will break ground on Goose Island. Solo Cup's \$100 million plant is underway.

NanoInk, a high-tech company, is building a state-of-the-art lab on the near west side.

Bank One, Bank of America, Washington Mutual and Wells Fargo are building retail banking facilities across the city.

Toyota Technological Institute has opened a new computer-science think tank at the University of Chicago.

And Keebler's new plant is about to open in the Pullman community.

This is just the tip of the iceberg in the Chicago economy. And each of these projects creates jobs and helps keep our city's economy diverse.

As we look to the future, we won't leave anything to chance.

We will continue to aggressively seek F.A.A. approval for the O'Hare Modernization Program, which will produce 195,000 jobs and add \$18 billion a year to the metropolitan area's economy.

Soon we will announce a major new campaign to market Chicago to business travelers who pass through O'Hare Airport, but may not be aware of all that Chicago has to offer as a place to do business.

We intend to make it easier for small businesses to apply for licenses, permits and financing.

And we will work even harder to build on our record of providing contracts to women- and minority-owned businesses.

Last year, those awards totaled 41 percent -- which meant almost \$478 million of contracts for minority-owned businesses and more than \$140 million for women-owned businesses.

During the first half of this year, M.B.E. and W.B.E. businesses received 50 percent of city contracts. And we hope to do even better next year.

As you know, in the last several years, we have put aggressive new safeguards in place to protect taxpayers and assure that the contracting process is open and transparent.

Our efforts have worked. Since the program's inception, more than 880 companies have been denied certification as M.B.E. or W.B.E. companies.

We have added staff, improved training and required additional documentation. We do many more site visits, in which an investigator visits the company -- often without prior notice -- to make sure women or minorities are actually in charge.

In addition, there are still investments to be made that will make Chicago a better place to live for people of all backgrounds, incomes and ages.

As I've already said, we will seek to make Chicago more affordable for our seniors, many of whom are long-time homeowners, by providing them with additional property tax exemptions.

And just a few weeks ago, we announced our new SeniorSave program, which provides seniors with discounts at many city businesses. Already, almost 10,000 seniors have signed up to participate. Next year, we will work with Chambers of Commerce across Chicago to encourage even greater participation.



And we will step up our efforts to reach homebound and isolated seniors with in-home assistance to help ensure their safety and independence.

There is another segment of our city's population who need more support from us -- our ex-offenders.

Every day, they are faced with the challenge of finding their way in the workforce, without having received any real job training.

Next year, the city will invest \$200,000 in a pilot program that offers support for ex-offenders who want, but have not received, real job training.

Under the program, they will be immediately placed in paying jobs and given job training and counseling, two steps that have been shown to be vital to turning their lives around.

We also will create an Advisory Council, with wide community representation, to craft strategies that will help those returning from prison become successful citizens.

How will we accomplish all that I've proposed today and keep Chicago moving forward, without raising property taxes?

For the last 14 years I've put a priority on managing government better so that we can reduce the pressure on property taxpayers.

In next year's budget, we will build on this commitment.

First, we will cut spending through improved management, all across the board, without affecting service delivery.

One important area of savings is in the area of risk management. We believe the city is spending too much on insurance, on workers' compensation and on settlements and court judgments in personal injury cases.

The best way to reduce these costs is to reduce the risk -- through a citywide safety program. Expressed in its simplest terms, if we make sure missing stop signs are replaced quickly, we won't risk a huge judgment from an accident caused by a missing stop sign.

We also intend to reorganize and consolidate a number of internal functions -- in areas like fleet management, warehousing, telecommunications and the processing of contracts and vouchers.

I want to make it clear that we are not cutting any city services in next year's budget. We are better managing them.

Every dollar we can save on internal processes is a dollar we can put to use on direct services for the people of Chicago.

Together, these management efficiencies will cut spending by about \$25 million a year.

We must continue to ensure that fines are sufficient to deter lawbreakers and cover the cost of enforcement. So we are proposing increased fines for turning in false fire alarms, running red lights and illegal parking.

Next, I propose that we engage in creative financing options involving the Chicago Skyway.

These options include a possible lease, sale or operating agreement.

It will take some time to complete this transaction. However, the revenue it generates will protect taxpayers. It will be used to reduce city debt, rebuild depleted reserves and guarantee long-term resources for the city's general fund.

But if we are to get spending under control, even more difficult decisions must be made.

Because personnel costs make up more than 80 percent of the corporate budget, it is almost impossible to reduce city spending significantly without reducing personnel costs.

So our 2004 budget calls for decreasing the size of the city workforce by more than 1,000 positions, to save \$55 million. We will not reduce the number of sworn safety personnel.

We will work to achieve this, first, by eliminating hundreds of unfilled vacancies in departments throughout city government. This is more than just a hiring freeze; it means the positions will be eliminated.

We want to work with our non-sworn personnel unions to implement an early retirement program, similar to the one we had five years ago.

However, depending on its success, we may still have to lay off employees, as a last resort.

I never want to lay anyone off, because I understand it affects people's lives and families. But if we are to get the cost of personnel under control and avoid a property tax increase next year, there may be no other way.

Unfortunately, all of these steps are still not enough.

We are forced to propose an increase in a limited number of fees and taxes. These increases will generate another \$37 million a year.

Again, this is something I do not like to do. But if we are to avoid a property tax increase next year, there is no choice.

We also are proposing a 3 percent increase in water and sewer fees, which is less than the increases of the last two years. This would cost the average customer about 8 dollars a year, or less than 3 cents a day and would pay for a new two-year water and sewer infrastructure program.

I believe the budget I've offered today, while a budget for hard times, offers a practical set of solutions that balance our need to invest in our city and protect taxpayers.

But this is only part of our shared vision for Chicago. As I've said many times, government alone can accomplish only so much.

I believe the best government is a government that empowers communities to realize their own visions and that works as a partner -- with community organizations, not-for-profits, places of worship, business groups and other levels of government.

It's a government that helps channel the energy, and maximize the potential, that exists in every neighborhood of our city.

Today, more than ever, with our limited resources, we need to create even more of these partnerships across Chicago.

Government can run after-school and summer programs for our children. But we can dramatically increase the number, the quality and the variety of these programs when businesses and community groups get involved.

Government can build housing. But we can do so much better when the private and not-for-profit sectors get involved to build housing and re-build souls.

Government can offer programs for seniors, the homeless and others in need. But we can improve their quality of life even more when the communities of Chicago step up and share responsibility with us.

And government can put police on the street. But as we've learned over the past decade in Chicago, the best way to make our children and our neighborhoods safer is by creating partnerships through community policing.

Together, through our many partnerships across Chicago, we have made real progress over the last fourteen years.

By accepting the challenges of this difficult economy and creating even more partnerships in the future, we can continue to move ahead and improve the quality of life for every person and every neighborhood in our city.

Thank you very much.

---

*Rules Suspended --* TIME FIXED FOR PUBLIC HEARING  
ON EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR YEAR 2004.

Alderman Beavers moved to introduce the following proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, Mayor Richard M. Daley on October 15, 2003, submitted to the City Council the Executive Budget of the City of Chicago for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2004 and ending December 31, 2004; and

WHEREAS, It is provided by law that at least one (1) public hearing shall be held by the corporate authorities on the budget document not less than one (1) week after publication thereof in such manner as the corporate authorities may determine and prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, It is further provided by law that notice of such hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Chicago not less than one (1) week prior to the time of such hearing; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved*, That the budget document for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2004, and ending December 31, 2004, as submitted by the Mayor to the City Council on October 15, 2003, be published in pamphlet form and made available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk and in the Chicago Public Library no later than October 17, 2003; and

*Be It Further Resolved*, That the public hearing on said budget document be held by the City Council at 11:00 A.M. on November 5, 2003, in the City Council Chambers in City Hall; and the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause a notice of such hearing to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Chicago at least one (1) week prior to the time of such public hearing.

10/15/2003

SPECIAL MEETING

9473

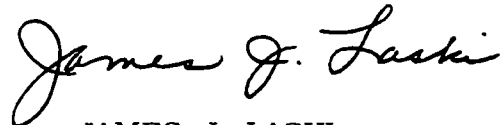
Alderman Beavers moved to *Suspend the Rules Temporarily* for the immediate consideration of and action upon the foregoing proposed resolution. The motion *Prevailed* by a viva voce vote.

On motion of Alderman Beavers, the foregoing proposed resolution was *Adopted* by a viva voce vote.

---

**Adjournment.**

Thereupon, Alderman Burke moved that the City Council do *Adjourn*. The motion *Prevailed* and the City Council *Stood Adjourned*.



JAMES J. LASKI,  
City Clerk.

9474

JOURNAL--CITY COUNCIL--CHICAGO

10/15/2003