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

Special Meeting -- Wednesday, October 11, 2006

at 10:00 A.M.

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

OFFICIAL RECORD.

RICHARD M. DALEY
Mayor

Attendance At Meeting.

Present -- The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, and Aldermen Flores, Tillman, Preckwinkle, Hairston, Lyle, Beavers, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Cárdenas, Olivo, Burke, T. Thomas, Coleman, L. Thomas, Rugai, Troutman, Brookins, Muñoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Carothers, Reboyas, Suarez, Matlak, Mell, Austin, Colón, Banks, Mitts, Allen, Laurino, Doherty, Natarus, Daley, Tunney, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Stone.

Absent -- Aldermen Haithcock, Stroger, Murphy, Solis, O'Connor, Moore.

Call To Order.

On Wednesday, October 11, 2006 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, Tillman, Preckwinkle, Hairston, Lyle, Beavers, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Cárdenas, Olivo, Burke, T. Thomas, Coleman, L. Thomas, Rugai, Troutman, Muñoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Carothers, Reboyas, Suarez, Matlak, Mell, Austin, Colón, Banks, Mitts, Allen, Laurino, Doherty, Natarus, Daley, Tunney, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Stone -- 43.

Quorum present.

Pledge Of Allegiance.

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

Invocation.

Reverend Oscar N. Carrasco, Director of Connectional Ministries, United Methodist Church, opened the meeting with prayer.

Placed On File -- CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING.

Mr. Edmund W. Kantor, Deputy City Clerk, informed the City Council that the following call for a special meeting was filed in his office on October 4, 2006 at 9:53 A.M.:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 4, 2006.

Edmund W. Kantor
Deputy City Clerk
City Hall, Room 107
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

DEAR MR. KANTOR -- 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 11, 2006, in the City Council Chamber 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, 2007, and ending December 31, 2007, and the Mayor's Budget Message relating thereto; and
2. To receive the Year XXXIII Community Development Block Grant Recommendations; and

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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 2007.

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, submitted the following communication which was, together with the Budget Overview and Revenue Estimates, Budget Recommendations, Program and Budget Summary and Draft Action Plan for fiscal year 2007, *Referred to the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations:*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 11, 2006.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- I transmit herewith the proposed 2007 Budget Recommendations and the Year XXXIII 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.**

It is my privilege and honor to present to you today my proposed 2007 balanced budget for the City of Chicago.

Drafting and passing the city budget are among our most important responsibilities and I appreciate the input from the City Council.

Today's world is filled with change and uncertainty. If a city does not stay ahead of those changes, it can be overwhelmed by them.

Our budget is our road map. It points the way to our city's future.

This budget offers the new steps we'll take to help secure Chicago's future for everyone, especially those who most need our support.

It lays out how we'll make Chicago even better and give people a greater chance to achieve their aspirations in life.

Chicago is strong today because we've always anticipated the future. Instead of ducking the big challenges, we've embraced them.

Together, we embraced the challenge of public education.

Years ago, our students were competing against others in our region. In today's knowledge-based, global economy, they compete with graduates from Europe and Asia.

To open doors to success and to end poverty, education has never been more important.

We embraced the challenge of public safety.

Years ago, keeping Chicago safe meant fighting and preventing crime in our neighborhoods -- and that's still our priority.

But today, we have to understand that since 9/11 the world has changed and Chicago could be a target of terrorism. We must anticipate and be prepared for every kind of disaster.

We embraced the challenge of creating new jobs and opportunities.

Years ago, most cities didn't aggressively recruit new jobs and industries. Today, in the global economy, we're competing for every job, not just with other states, but with other nations.

We embraced the challenge of public housing.

Years ago, public housing was focused on finding families an apartment in a high-rise. Today, we're placing them in viable communities, so they can share in Chicago's success, like every other resident.

And we embraced the challenge of investing in every neighborhood across Chicago to improve the quality of life.

Years ago, that meant providing the basic services that people depend on -- and that's still critical today. But, today we know quality of life is about far more.

It's about revitalizing communities, building community anchors and affordable housing. And it's about enhancing our environment.

We've made progress on many fronts, and I'm proud of where we stand today. Chicago is recognized -- at home and far and wide -- as a thriving and successful city.

I want to thank the City Council. Without your support and your ideas, we would not have come so far.

But we have much more to do and much left to accomplish, especially for those who most need our support.

We know from experience that we can only move forward as one city. We've seen the cost of endless politics and stalemate in Washington, D.C.. People are fed up with the lack of progress on the challenges facing our country.

We cannot afford to go down that path in Chicago. This does not mean that we should avoid debate on the challenges we face.

But our debates must remain constructive, and our disagreements respectful. We would not have progressed this far if we hadn't put the divisiveness of the past behind us.

As I present this balanced budget today, I pledge to continue working closely with each of you and all communities across Chicago.

Together, let's pursue our common agenda for making Chicago better for everyone.

And let's continue to anticipate the challenges of a changing world and make the tough decisions to confront and overcome them.

In this budget we build on our shared record of progress.

- As we continue to improve our schools, we'll invest more in our children to provide them with high-quality after-school and summer programs, including summer jobs, that help them achieve their potential and avoid gangs, guns and drugs;
- We'll better fight gangs, guns and drugs so that we keep our neighborhoods safe. And we'll do even more to keep our city secure from terrorism;
- We'll offer new housing programs to keep Chicago affordable for thousands more residents;
- We'll invest far more to rebuild streets, alleys and sidewalks, as well as community anchors -- our police and fire stations, libraries, parks and senior centers -- to enhance quality of life;
- We'll provide job training to more residents, including ex-offenders, and continue to create new jobs in every neighborhood;
- We'll provide better services to our seniors and those who most need our support, especially those who live in poverty;
- We'll continue to manage government responsibly and innovatively so that we take the pressure off local property taxpayers;
- And, just as important, we will continue to reform government to assure taxpayers that we've learned from past mistakes and are working to prevent misconduct from happening in the future.

On this point, I want to be emphatic.

We will continue to make Chicago better for everyone and prevent and fight misconduct that occurs in government.

The City's budget is susceptible to national and international economic forces, just like the budget for every family in Chicago. We have to pay more for utilities and health care, just as they do.

That's why I'm pleased to report that the City's finances remain in very good shape because we continue to manage responsibly.

Our projected shortfall was the lowest in five years. The City's bond ratings are the highest since 1978 and higher than many major businesses.

Since I've been Mayor, even as the cost of personnel has increased, we've cut almost Two and a Half Billion Dollars in spending so we can re-invest in people.

We've reduced the number of City employees by 2,800, while adding more than 1,500 new police officers. There are fewer non-safety personnel today than when I took office, even as we've enhanced services.

Since I've been Mayor we've kept City of Chicago property tax increases to an average of a little more than 1 percent a year.

So that higher taxes remain a last resort, in July I ordered a \$5 Million across-the-board cut in non-safety spending, without affecting services.

Other recent management improvements include putting business license renewals on a two-year cycle -- which will reduce paperwork for business owners and increase revenues by \$18 Million next year.

Thanks to our citywide performance management initiative, we've cut over \$22 Million in spending, including \$10 Million in overtime.

We're also seeking bids for leasing Midway Airport. If we conclude a responsible agreement, it will generate funds to invest in our neighborhoods and help protect our city's finances for years to come.

Next year, we'll also keep the pressure off higher taxes by continuing to invest Skyway revenue in our seniors, after-school programs, our plan to end homelessness, affordable housing, job training for ex-offenders and people with disabilities.

As we look to the future, there are caution signs, especially in the housing market. But we will continue to be diligent and watchful and make adjustments in spending, if needed.

We are confident that, next year, we will once again meet our responsible revenue projections.

That's why next year the City of Chicago will make new investments in our people and neighborhoods without raising property taxes or any other tax or fee.

Even as we invest more to improve quality of life, there will be no increase in any tax or fee next year, including the property tax.

This will be the third year in a row without a City of Chicago property tax increase.

Homeowners are already struggling because of new assessments that show an increase in home values.

Everyone wants their home values to increase, but that means higher property tax bills next year, especially in parts of the city where higher property taxes could be difficult to pay.

That's why, to keep Chicago affordable, I've again challenged the General Assembly to extend the 7 percent cap on home values that I fought to enact in 2004.

Because property tax bills went up less than they otherwise would have, it has helped thousands of homeowners save on their property taxes, and I'll continue to work for its extension before the next bills go out later next year.

So, today I want to again ask our state leaders -- if extending the 7 percent cap isn't the solution, then what solution would they support?

Homeowners need us to act, not stand by and do nothing.

We also protect our property taxpayers by growing our economy.

If a business doesn't come to Chicago, it will go somewhere else in the metropolitan area.

That means lost jobs and lost revenue. Chicago's loss is another community's gain.

On this point, I want to be clear.

We've worked hard to protect our taxpayers year after year.

I'm not going to be forced to raise property taxes to make up for the sales tax revenue we would lose as a result of any business, large or small, locating outside Chicago, when they could have located here, in the first place.

As Mayor, it's my responsibility to put the best interests of our city, first and that's what I'll continue to do.

That's why we've worked so hard to bring new businesses to all parts of Chicago, especially to under-served communities. They deserve the same fair chance as every other part of our city or suburbs to have new businesses and opportunity.

I never have and I never will stand by and let businesses go elsewhere that should come to our city.

And I never have and I never will stand by while people struggle to make ends meet.

Though Wall Street has reached record highs, many working families are struggling. Wages are stagnant and benefits are no longer commonplace.

We can create new jobs and have higher wages for Chicago's workers.

It's time to raise the state's minimum wage for the first time since 2004.

On behalf of our state's working people, I ask you to join me in supporting an increase from \$6.50 to \$7.50 per hour during the upcoming session of the General Assembly.

If the General Assembly doesn't act during the veto session, we'll go back next year to seek passage.

To improve the economic stature and worldwide visibility of Chicago and Illinois, we're working to bring the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games to the United States and Chicago in 2016.

The Olympic Games would enhance our image as a world-class city, attract new visitors and create new businesses and jobs across Chicago.

Without using local taxpayer funding, the Games would be a catalyst for new opportunity in our neighborhoods, with lasting benefits for generations to come.

This includes more affordable housing, modern sports and multi-purpose facilities and other improvements to our parks and infrastructure on the West Side, South Side and North Side.

And, just as important, we'll provide business opportunities and jobs to these communities.

While approval is far from certain, we have to think about our future and not miss out on what could be a great economic boost for all parts of our city.

Fighting for new jobs and an increase in the state minimum wage . . . no increase in property taxes for three years in a row, while increasing investments in neighborhoods and people . . . and, working to bring the 2016 Olympic Games to Chicago are just a few of the ways we're trying to secure our future.

But our future depends, more than anything else, on our children. And next year we'll expand our commitment to them even further.

You know how important the children of Chicago are to me. On their behalf, eleven years ago, we took responsibility for educating our children -- the first major city in the nation to do so.

We made a commitment to every child in every school. We raised standards and expectations. We asked more of our children, teachers, parents and everyone involved in educating our children.

And, today, while there is much more to be done, our students are making us proud.

Because we've stayed the course with our commitment to learning the basics in the classroom -- starting with reading -- test scores continue to rise, especially at the elementary level and also at many high schools.

Attendance is at an all-time high, as are graduation rates.

Looking to the future, we're leading the nation in our efforts to turn around our most troubled schools, especially high schools that chronically under-perform.

We're working to reduce the dropout rate even further. And, because we want every child to succeed, we're doing all we can to send more students on to college or other higher education.

We're recruiting even more highly qualified teachers.

Over the next six years, working with Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago City Council, through our "Modern Schools Across Chicago" program, we'll build or renovate another 27 schools, especially in underserved neighborhoods. That's in addition to the 111 new schools we've already built or expanded across Chicago.

If we receive positive responses to our RFP, next year we'll ensure that every school is updated with the latest computers and broadband Internet service. We want everyone in our city to have access to the Internet.

And I will continue to challenge our legislature to reform the way the State of Illinois funds education.

For the sake of our children, once the November election is over, I hope we agree on a responsible solution that guarantees an increase in education funding from year to year, lowers property taxes and increases accountability for all of our schools.

We'll also do even more to assure that all our children reach their potential in life and are protected from the threat of gangs, guns and drugs.

Years ago, under the leadership of my wife, Maggie, we began a groundbreaking program -- After School Matters -- to provide positive alternatives to our children during the hours they're most vulnerable.

Since it began in 2000, it has grown from three schools serving 180 teens to 725 programs for more than 22,000 teens in 35 schools today. That's a remarkable achievement on behalf of our children and she deserves our thanks.

Next year -- thanks to the generous support of many businesses and individuals, ongoing funding from the Skyway and new City spending -- After School Matters will invest another \$5.5 Million to serve another 5,000 teens.

On top of that, the City will provide an additional \$1 Million to create 800 new summer jobs for them.

After School Matters will enhance its programs to include science, in addition to the arts, technology, sports and other programs they already provide.

Through our award-winning YouthNet program, for the first time we will offer job training and internship placement services at six youth employment centers to those aged 14 to 21.

We also have to make sure our children are safe, and that means continued tough enforcement of the city's curfew.

We're not just issuing more citations, we're holding parents accountable. Now, parents are fined when their children commit crimes after the curfew.

Next year, the Department of Public Health will work with the Department of Children and Youth Services and the Chicago Public Schools to reduce childhood obesity, a critical health problem that must be addressed early in life.

The Chicago Public Library will get more kids involved in reading, through programs like Get Wild About Reading and Great Kids Family Literacy Night.

And we will fully fund our Juvenile Support Intervention Center, which gives young people who have committed a crime the support they need to turn their lives around.

As we work to give our children a chance to succeed, we'll continue our efforts to make our neighborhoods safer and our city more secure.

Thankfully, violent crime and murders continue to drop in Chicago. As important as this is, this is no time to rest.

We've come so far, in part because Chicago was the first major city in the nation to create a community policing program in which thousands of Chicagoans partner with the police department to make their neighborhoods safer.

It's also because our department understood that the gang and drug culture in Chicago has evolved into a highly sophisticated form of organized crime and that we need the latest technology to fight it.

The Chicago Police Department alone with the OEMC were among the first in the nation to effectively use computer technology to anticipate spikes in crime -- much of which is gang or drug-related -- so it can deploy more officers to stop crime before it happens.

Chicago has also been a leader in the use of cameras to prevent crime.

We've already installed 215 cameras in neighborhoods around the city to prevent crime -- especially drug crimes -- from taking hold on street corners. So far this year, the Narcotics and Gang Investigation Unit has dismantled 26 drug operations.

Because they're so effective, people want these cameras in their neighborhoods. So next year we will invest another \$1 Million to buy 100 additional cameras and install them where they're needed the most.

At the same time, we can do even more to get guns off our streets.

So far this year we have confiscated and destroyed more than 10,000 guns, an area in which we continue to lead the nation.

Last spring the Chicago Police Department, along with the four Clear Channel radio stations, sponsored our most successful gun turn in program -- getting more than 3,000 guns off our streets in a three-hour period.

Next year, we will continue our fight in Springfield to end the easy availability of guns -- especially assault weapons and .50-caliber rifles.

I won't give up, regardless of how long it takes to pass reasonable gun laws in Illinois.

In cooperation with the Cook County State's Attorney, we'll begin to seize the assets of drug kingpins, including their homes and other property and go after them for tax evasion.

This builds on our partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office to target narcotics dealers, their illicit profits and the guns they illegally traffic.

As we continue to make our neighborhoods safer, we must also ensure that the Chicago Police Department has the confidence of all the people of Chicago.

Superintendent Cline has stepped up efforts to recruit people of all backgrounds, especially minorities, so the Department better reflects the city.

He's made it clear that racial profiling has no place in the Chicago Police Department, and he has revised the Department's policy for traffic stops, while creating new partnerships with community and faith-based leaders.

We expect a lot from our police officers. Every day, they put their lives on the line to protect our communities. And, every day, the vast majority of them do their jobs well.

As we've given our officers new tools to fight crime, we've also installed new safeguards to help prevent abuse and misconduct.

I've already made clear that no matter how awful the crime, no suspect should be subject to abuse, especially the kind of abuse that occurred decades ago in the Calumet Police District.

Today, the Department records interrogations in murder cases, conducts regular ethics training, and has implemented new procedures dealing with witnesses.

Our police have made great strides in DNA testing and in using computer databases to protect the rights of the innocent.

Soon, more than thirty police cars will be equipped with cameras to provide instant replays of traffic stops -- for the protection of drivers and the police. This is only a start. We'll seek even more in the future.

And the Department is improving officer accountability by adopting an early intervention system, so supervisors can modify an officer's behavior before a problem arises.

On Monday, I announced that we will retain a national search firm with experience in public safety issues to help us find a new head for the Office of Professional Standards.

This gives us an opportunity to change the operation of the office to ensure that its investigations have the confidence of the people and police of Chicago. Once the national search has concluded, I have asked five prominent Chicagoans to screen the nominees and make one recommendation to me.

They are Terry Hillard, the former Police Superintendent; Rita Fry, the former

Cook County Public Defender; attorney Andre Grant; Father Michael Pfleger and Juan Rangel, head of the United Neighborhood Association.

I want it to be clear that abuse and misconduct will not be tolerated in Chicago.

Of course, as we work to keep our neighborhoods safe, we must also keep our city secure.

A few weeks ago, Chicago became the first city in the nation to conduct an emergency drill to help us better understand how to evacuate downtown in the event of an emergency.

Under the leadership of Cortez Trotter, the City's Chief Emergency Officer, it went off successfully. We learned a great deal and we're improving our plan.

Years ago, before September 11, Chicago built a state-of-the-art 911 Center, which continues to attract officials from around the world who want to duplicate it in their own cities.

This facility enables us to stay on top of problems across our city -- whether they're traffic, emergency or crime-related. And it gives us the ability to communicate seamlessly with local, state and federal officials.

We've enhanced our ability to manage crises with the delivery of a mobile command unit containing the latest satellite and communications technology.

This year our Police Department is using Homeland Security funding to acquire two bomb robots, a new helicopter and a new patrol boat for port security.

Equally important, the Chicago Fire Department, under the leadership of Ray Orozco, will enhance city safety in next year's budget.

It will acquire four new ambulances -- and create four new ambulance companies -- to better protect Chicagoans around the clock.

It will soon acquire two new command vans, which, along with two new units delivered earlier this year, will provide much better communications with other local and regional agencies.

Enhancing our safety is only one way to improve neighborhood quality of life.

We must also keep Chicago affordable and improve access to affordable housing for low-income Chicagoans and working families.

The new steps we'll take build on our already successful programs, through which we have preserved or created more than 125,000 units of affordable housing.

We must continue to use the power of economic development to invest in our communities and provide for people who most need our support. Our challenge is to harness private market forces to provide affordable housing.

To promote home ownership, I will seek to expand the Affordable Requirements Ordinance, which currently requires 20 percent of units to be affordable in residential developments that receive City financial assistance.

I want to increase the number of affordable developments by broadening the definition of City assistance to include all types of City land transactions, planned developments and zoning changes that increase project density.

Through these ordinance changes alone, we expect to help more than 1,000 families a year realize their dream of affordable home ownership.

In 2007 our Housing Department will access more than \$400 Million to support another 12,000 units of affordable housing. This includes \$150 Million in tax-exempt bonds to support first-time homebuyer programs.

To provide more affordable rental housing -- which is the majority of Chicago's housing market -- we are committing \$40 Million in new money to develop additional units and expand rental assistance.

In 2007, the Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund will provide rental subsidies to 4,000 very low-income renters -- double the number helped today.

As we dedicate more resources to building new rental housing, it is also important that we preserve the existing rental stock.

This year, the City of Chicago is preserving more than 3,000 units through our efforts on the Lawndale Restoration project and the Chicago Equity Fund portfolio.

In the coming year we will work closely with other stakeholders to find new ways to ensure that affordable rental housing is preserved.

Next, with the assistance of Alderman Ray Suarez, chairman of the City Council Housing Committee, the condo conversion task force will develop a fair and reasonable way to mitigate the loss of affordable rental units.

The task force will make recommendations for a comprehensive condo conversion policy to be implemented in 2007.

Next year, we will also expand our home buying programs to assist nearly 200 police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and school teachers.

To continue our commitment to help those who most need our support, we will invest another \$2.4 Million in Skyway funding for our plan to end homelessness.

We will spend an additional \$600,000 on services to help individuals and families remain in permanent housing.

The C.H.A. will continue to deliver on our groundbreaking plan to transform public housing in Chicago and transition its residents to a better life.

I've often said that the surest path to economic opportunity is to provide a good education -- but for the lowest-income families, we need to do more. We need to end the isolation that has trapped them in a cycle of poverty and failure.

We began the Plan for Transformation in public housing seven years ago to replace dangerous, unsafe high-rises with mixed-income communities.

Our goal was for residents to become economically self-sufficient and to create healthy, thriving communities.

Today, almost 15,000 of the 25,000 units are complete and work is underway all across Chicago. Thousands of families and seniors are safely relocated. Thousands of C.H.A. residents are now working.

But we still have a lot of hard work to do. Because of higher than expected housing construction costs and tighter than expected federal funding, it will take more time than anticipated to get it done.

But, we will never waver from our commitment to give these residents the same chance for a good life as every other Chicagoan.

Next year we will do more to train and place residents in jobs. We will do more to attract new retail and commercial investments in the new mixed-income communities.

I want to thank Terry Peterson -- one of your former colleagues -- and the former board chair and current C.E.O. Sharon Gilliam -- for their leadership.

Because of their efforts and your support -- Chicago is building a new national model of public housing -- giving these residents a real chance to share in the promise of our city.

As you know, since I've been Mayor, we've made a major commitment to improve neighborhood quality of life throughout the city. Our neighborhoods are stronger, as a result.

Each year -- whether in good economic times or bad -- we've invested in our menu program to improve streets, alleys, sidewalks and lighting in every ward.

Years ago, we understood that rebuilding communities was about far more than basic infrastructure -- as important as that is.

We recognized that communities need 'anchors' which provide people with stability and hope and businesses with reasons to invest.

To this day, I don't know of any other city in the nation that has invested to the extent we have -- 15 new police stations and a new police headquarters, 10 new fire stations, 52 new or fully renovated libraries, five senior centers, 45 new or fully renovated schools and 200 acres of new parkland.

To help secure our future even further, we're building new anchors across the city, including Kennedy King College on the South Side, Westinghouse High School on the West Side and the Gale Community Center on the North Side.

Next year, we'll continue our menu program and invest another \$190 Million through our yearly neighborhood bond program across the city.

We'll improve thousands of additional blocks of residential streets, alleys, sidewalks and arterial streets along with miles of water grid mains, sewers and sewer lining.

Soon I'll announce our plan to provide millions in new funding to build additional community anchors, including affordable housing, throughout Chicago.

Taken together, this will be a major investment, which will make our neighborhoods even stronger for decades to come.

I think we all agree that Chicago has never looked greater, greener or cleaner.

Next year, we'll expand our pilot recycling program to seven wards.

We'll plant another 6,000 trees. And we'll continue to invest in our Green Buildings and rooftop garden programs to enhance air quality.

And we'll do even more to promote water conservation throughout Chicago.

While we improve our environment, it's also important to keep our economy competitive and our workers well-trained for the jobs of tomorrow.

I've already made clear my commitment to fight for and bring new jobs and businesses to all parts of Chicago.

That was evidenced by our efforts to win approval for the Modernization of O'Hare, an agreement that will help secure our economic future with new investments and new jobs for years to come.

We'll also continue to fight day by day for new businesses and opportunity to keep downtown and our neighborhoods strong.

Several months ago, Mittal Steel, the world's largest steel company, has located its North American headquarters in Chicago. United Airlines will move its headquarters downtown.

CNA Financial, which has been headquartered here for over 100 years is undertaking a major rehab in the South Loop.

This year, to promote growth in our neighborhoods, we hosted the first ever Grocery Store Expo, which garnered national attention. And, we hosted an Industrial Expo to encourage manufacturers to relocate or expand in Chicago.

We've expanded our Planned Manufacturing Districts which protect industrial companies. Already, Coca Cola has expanded a distribution center, as has Blommer Chocolate, while MIFAB, a plumbing manufacturer and distributor, has moved to Chicago from Canada.

We continue to work to bring underused land back to productive use. Since 2004, city land sales have yielded more than \$82 Million.

We're also working to maintain Chicago's leadership in the convention and tourism business, one of the most competitive industries in the world.

This year, union workers supported our convention industry by making it more affordable for conventions to come here and I want to thank them.

BIO 2010 has announced it will return to our city, after its very successful meeting here this year. In addition, 18 major conventions have announced plans to come here in the future, each a major boost for our city.

As we work to bring new businesses, we must do more to train our workers.

Next year, we will invest over \$2.6 Million to provide employment and training services to ex-offenders who sincerely want to turn their lives around. These funds will extend initiatives like the Social Enterprise Program, and continue partnerships with the Safer Foundation and Community Assistance Programs.

The City will invest over \$280,000 in the Chicago Workforce Centers for manufacturing and service industries, which have placed 1,000 residents in employment and helped nearly 300 businesses find workers.

We'll create a new Chicago Hospitality Institute, which will help ensure we continue to create jobs in the convention and tourism industry.

We will invest \$200,000 to establish partnerships and enhance workforce development services in the Englewood community.

And, to further help the unemployed, today I'm proposing a Chicago Works Tax Credit, which will provide incentives to Chicago businesses that hire low- and moderate-income residents.

We're also doing far more to help others who most need our support.

Our Chicago Tax Assistance Centers will continue to provide free tax preparation to low-income Chicagoans. Last year alone, they helped 21,000 residents receive \$28.3 Million in refunds through the Earned Income Tax Credit.

We will expand our 311 system to include a new Foreclosure Prevention Call Center, to help people who are having difficulty paying their rent or mortgage.

We will expand our weatherization program for low- and moderate-income families to help control energy costs and conserve natural resources.

Through the Skyway, we will invest another \$640,000 to expand our winter heating assistance program so that no one is left in the cold.

And soon we will announce a major new effort to assure no one goes without electricity.

We will use Skyway funds to expand our Meals on Wheels program to serve an additional 470,000 meals to deserving seniors.

We will continue to implement our five-year senior housing plan and create another 1,700 homes and an additional 400 units for supportive living.

In addition, we'll build three more senior satellite centers -- to bring the total number to nine.

We'll expand our Caregiver program, which provides needed transportation, medical, retirement and homemaker services.

And next year, any senior who qualifies for a Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption will automatically receive a sewer fee exemption, improving affordability.

Just as important as the investments in our people and neighborhoods that I've reviewed today are our efforts to assure people that we're doing all we can to prevent misconduct from happening in the future.

Over the last decade we've made city government more transparent. Today, if you want to know about any contract, all you have to do is go online.

I'm proud that Chicago has won awards for our transparency efforts.

But, as I've said many times, while we can't change the past, we can learn from it and I want to assure you that I have.

When problems in hiring and contracts were first identified, we took action. Since then, we've taken new steps to reform our procedures.

Last year, I named a new Inspector General -- a former federal prosecutor -- and gave the office greater authority and advanced technological tools.

In next year's budget, the Office will create an independent audit function to help identify misconduct by any employee or vendor.

Further, we've improved personnel functions in a new Department of Human Resources, which screens and ranks applicants and monitors interviews conducted by departments.

We've passed tougher state laws dealing with public contractor misconduct; penalties for theft of City-owned property; and fraud in the women and minority owned business programs.

With your support, a new ordinance was passed prohibiting City employees from soliciting or accepting political contributions on City time. We've provided "whistleblower protection" to City employees reporting misconduct and required annual ethics training for all City employees.

I signed executive orders prohibiting City contractors from contributing to my political campaign and requiring annual ethics training for City employees.

All of these steps, and others, reflect my commitment to do what's needed to prevent and fight misconduct.

As Mayor, my job has always been about looking to the future.

It's a big job because we face major challenges in a world that is growing more complex.

It's a job I love, because I love Chicago.

Nothing is more important to me than getting up every morning and fighting to better Chicago for our people.

Every day I ask how we can build on the progress we've made.

Our schools have come so far in the last eleven years, but our students can do even better.

We've lowered crime, but there are still too many neighborhoods burdened by gangs, guns and drugs.

We've created thousands of new jobs, but there are still too many people who need job training and a good job.

Together, we've built a record of progress of which every Chicagoan can be proud.

And it's by continuing to work together that we'll keep our progress going and make Chicago even better for all the people we serve.

Thank you.

Rules Suspended -- TIME FIXED FOR PUBLIC HEARING
ON EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR YEAR 2007.

Alderman Beavers moved to introduce the following proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, Mayor Richard M. Daley on October 11, 2006, submitted to the City Council the Executive Budget of the City of Chicago for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2007; 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, 2007, and ending December 31, 2007, as submitted by the Mayor to the City Council on October 11, 2006, 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 15, 2006; and

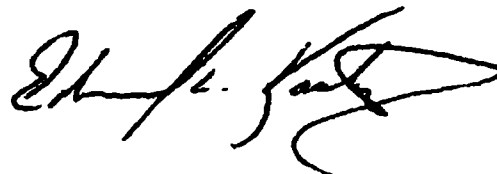
Be It Further Resolved, That the public hearing on said budget document be held by the City Council at 11:00 A.M. on November 1, 2006, in the City Council Chambers in City Hall; and the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause a notice of such hearing to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Chicago at least one (1) week prior to the time of such public hearing.

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*.



EDMUND W. KANTOR,
Deputy City Clerk.