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

Special Meeting -- Wednesday October 10, 2007

at 10:00 A.M.

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

OFFICIAL RECORD.

RICHARD M. DALEY
Mayor

MIGUEL DEL VALLE
City Clerk

Attendance At Meeting.

Present -- The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, and Alderman Flores, Fioretti, Dowell, Preckwinkle, Hairston, Lyle, Jackson, Harris, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Cárdenas, Olivo, Burke, Foulkes, Thompson, Thomas, Lane, Rugai, Cochran, Brookins, Muñoz, Zalewski, Dixon, Solis, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Carothers, Reboyas, Suarez, Waguespack, Mell, Austin, Colón, Banks, Mitts, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Doherty, Reilly, Daley, Tunney, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Moore, Stone.

Absent -- None.

Call To Order.

On Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 10:00 A.M., The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, called the City Council to order. The Honorable Miguel del Valle, City Clerk, called the roll of members and it was found that there were present at that time: Aldermen Flores, Fioretti, Dowell, Preckwinkle, Hairston, Lyle, Jackson, Harris, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Cárdenas, Olivo, Burke, Foulkes, Thompson, Thomas, Lane, Rugai, Cochran, Brookins, Muñoz, Zalewski, Dixon, Solis, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Carothers, Reboyas, Suarez, Waguespack, Mell, Austin, Colón, Banks, Mitts, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Doherty, Reilly, Daley, Tunney, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Moore, Stone -- 50.

Quorum present.

Pledge Of Allegiance.

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

Invocation.

Bishop Cody Marshall, Freedom Temple Church of God in Christ, opened the meeting with prayer.

Placed On File -- CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING.

The Honorable Miguel del Valle, City Clerk, informed the City Council that the following call for a special meeting was filed in his office on October 4, 2007 at 8:08 A.M.:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 3, 2007.

*Honorable Miguel del Valle
City Clerk
City Hall, Room 107
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602*

DEAR MR. DEL VALLE -- 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 10, 2007, 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, 2008, and ending December 31, 2008, and the Mayor's Budget Message relating thereto; and
2. To receive the Year XXXIV 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 2008.

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, submitted the following communication which was, together with the Budget Recommendations, Overview and Revenue Estimates, Program and Budget Summary and Draft Action Plan for fiscal year 2008, *Referred to the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations:*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 10, 2007.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- I transmit herewith the proposed 2008 Budget Recommendations and the Year XXXIV 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.**

I want to welcome you here today for our presentation of the 2008 City of Chicago budget.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to hearing your ideas and thoughts about how we can improve it to keep your communities and our city moving forward.

The budget has been crafted based on public input at three hearings across the city. It is hundreds of pages long.

But, as a reflection of our vision for Chicago, it can be summarized in one important idea -- to assure that the future is promising and secure for all the people of our city, especially for those who need our support the most -- children, the working poor, seniors and those who live in poverty.

We have a moral obligation to help those who most need it. When each person succeeds, our entire city succeeds.

Yes, we have more to accomplish, but in the past 18 years we've progressed in so many ways -- from improving our children's education and neighborhood quality of life, to lowering crime, to creating new opportunity across Chicago.

Now, as the United States applicant city to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2016, we have a once in a generation opportunity to showcase Chicago as a global city and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Unfortunately, whether it's Washington, D.C. or state capitols around the nation, partisanship too often dominates.

Playing politics comes before people. Little gets done.

We've come far in Chicago because we've put our shared goals ahead of personal agendas and worked together to keep our progress going.

There's plenty of room to debate policy in our city and sometimes we do so with emotion. We're passionate about what needs to be done to secure our future.

I believe that in our changing world, we either stay ahead or risk falling behind.

Before any other major city, we took responsibility for the education of our children and for ending the plight of public housing residents.

We created the nation's first community policing program and led the way in the use of technology, especially cameras, to make our neighborhoods safer.

We made improving neighborhood quality of life -- and our environment -- our priority before other cities did.

Addressing the challenges of the future is more important than ever, but given the revenue shortfalls that we and many other cities and states in the nation face this year, it is also very complex.

That's why this morning -- during the most difficult economic time we've faced in years -- I am presenting a balanced budget to you that meets the needs of today and better prepares us for the challenges of the future.

As you review it, keep in mind that we're under global and national pressures that must be addressed if we're to keep Chicago moving forward.

- Most important is giving our children a quality education, starting early in life. It's the foundation of our future success and why we're taking new steps to build on our eleven year record of progress.
- This is critical because the globalization of the world's economy will only increase. Fifty years ago, we competed for jobs and business with Detroit and Cleveland. Now, we compete with other nations around the world.
- Even though America is the richest nation on earth, poverty is increasing and the gap between the haves and the have-nots is growing.
- America has more guns per capita than any nation in the world. And we wonder why gun violence is so prevalent in our society.
- Preventing and being prepared for international terrorism has become a new responsibility for cities in the 21st century -- a responsibility that will increase in the decades ahead.
- Chicago is a major immigrant gateway, with a greater mixture of populations defining the diversity of our city, which we must continue to celebrate and embrace.
- The world's climate is changing. If global action isn't taken, Chicago's climate will grow warmer and warmer in the years ahead.
- Major cities continue to be unaffordable for some. In Chicago, because of higher assessments, our state's tax structure -- which forces local tax increases -- and ongoing market pressures, housing prices are out of reach for too many.

- Baby boomers are growing in age and becoming a larger part of our population, increasing health care and pension costs and potentially redefining the need for services.
- Our city's existing infrastructure, although greatly improved because of the billions of dollars we've invested, needs constant attention and upgrading.
- The cost of government continues to rise faster than inflation and our tax base. The cost of personnel -- wages, pensions and health care -- makes up over 80% of our city's budget and continues to grow.

I'd like to repeat that. The cost of personnel -- wages, pensions and health care -- makes up over 80% of our city's budget and continues to grow.

To help us continue to anticipate these trends and define the kind of government Chicago will need in the future, several weeks ago I named a commission of leading Chicagoans called the 21st Century Commission.

I've asked them to recommend the new and different services they believe will be essential for us to provide in the decades ahead and to suggest ways to help us better manage and streamline city government so taxpayers can afford them.

And I've reminded them that unlike the federal government, which can run deficits from year to year, that the budget we enact must be balanced.

That's the fundamental challenge for us this year because the nation's economy is slowing and becoming more uncertain day by day.

It's why today I must report to you that in Chicago -- as in many other cities and states this year -- our revenue picture continues to be 'mixed'.

Some of our revenues -- like the utility tax, amusement and hotel taxes are up and doing better than expected, but even given our responsible projections last year, others aren't.

Receipts from the sales, fuel, parking and cigarette taxes are down.

And, like many other cities, we're suffering from a dramatic slowdown in the housing market, which has reduced revenue from the real estate transaction tax and from the sale of city-owned land.

Further complicating our revenue situation is that we've been forced to spend more than anticipated on overtime because of harsh weather.

What this means is that our revenues are flat, while the cost of government continues to increase, creating a \$196 Million deficit which can be addressed only by further reducing costs, increasing revenues or both.

In anticipation of this challenge, earlier this year we implemented new cost savings steps. Without them, our financial situation would be far worse.

Already, we've suspended non safety hiring, implemented a two percent across the board reduction in non personnel spending, restricted travel and mandated unpaid furlough days for managers.

We've created the Department of Compliance to monitor our compliance with local, state, federal and other regulations.

I want to thank the 56 unions, representing 28,000 city employees that reached a 10 year agreement with the city on new contracts that protect city workers and taxpayers and that will bring stability to city services for the next decade.

Under this ground breaking agreement city workers will participate in wellness programs which will save us millions down the road on health care.

In addition, we will consolidate the Department of Buildings and the Department of Construction and Permits into one department, and cut another 80 vacancies from the city's payroll, which together save over \$3.3 Million a year.

These and other steps in the budget including optimizing the sale of city-owned land and delaying non union pay raises for six months will help save or generate more than \$67 Million next year.

To assure that we are doing everything possible to protect taxpayers, we will continue the management initiatives we announced last year.

In fact, since I've been Mayor we've saved taxpayers over \$2.6 Billion so that we can reinvest in our people and neighborhoods.

And because of our history of good management our city's bond ratings remain at historically high levels. Taxpayers are rewarded because we're able to borrow at lower interest rates.

All these efforts, however, won't balance next year's budget.

That's why, in addition to better management, we continue to look for creative ways to generate new revenue before turning to our taxpayers.

In 2004, we leased the Skyway for \$1.82 Billion and used part of the proceeds to payoff Skyway and other city debt, and part to create a long-term reserve fund to strengthen our financial position.

And, as I'll review, we also created a \$100 Million account through which we invest in people and neighborhoods year by year.

We continue to assess options for leasing Midway Airport. I know it's a complex issue, but it would be irresponsible not to pursue it.

We continue to fight for taxpayers at the Cook County Board of Review by challenging businesses to pay their fair share in property taxes, efforts which already have protected homeowners from paying over \$60 Million in taxes.

And, we're seeking a long-term lease of the city's three recycling centers, the proceeds from which will be used to invest in our capital needs.

As we continue to better manage government, I want to assure you that we remain committed to the highest standards of conduct by city employees.

We'll continue to implement the many reforms we've announced and higher standards we've set, especially in hiring and contracts.

The new Department of Human Resources will continue to deliver on our commitment to implement a hiring process that is fair and objective by using technology to provide tighter controls, tracking and accountability to the process.

We'll adhere to our agreement with the court so that our hiring procedures are open and transparent and have the confidence of the people of our city.

We'll support the Inspector General to assure that employees understand that we won't tolerate misconduct and that allegations will be investigated and if necessary, prosecuted.

And, we'll implement new reforms, if needed.

Next year, we're making the lobbying process more transparent by giving every Chicagoan the opportunity to search data on the Chicago Board of Ethics website about those who lobby the city.

People must know that our priorities are their priorities and that we're investing their tax dollars wisely to keep our city moving forward.

But, during these tight times, cities and states around the nation are increasingly under pressure to cut services and make substantial layoffs to balance their budgets, steps we've avoided in this budget, so far.

I know that many Chicagoans are struggling to make ends meet and facing economic uncertainty, which made developing this budget all the more difficult.

They will pay higher property taxes for schools because Springfield didn't act to fundamentally reform the way the state funds education.

They face higher fares and service cuts at the C.T.A. on November 4 and beyond if Springfield doesn't soon enact long term funding and personnel reform.

They face the possibility of dramatically higher property tax bills because of higher assessments in the next few weeks if Springfield doesn't either extend or make permanent the 7% cap on the taxable value of homes.

I call on each of you here today to ask Springfield to act and protect the people and homeowners of our city. For their inaction, Chicagoans will pay the price.

But, taking all this into consideration, we have to make a choice in this budget, just as we have in the past.

Do we maintain city services and make the investments needed to keep Chicago moving forward or do we cut services, make substantial layoffs and risk falling behind?

I believe we have only one choice -- we must keep Chicago moving forward.

Even as we continue to better manage government, we must continue to invest in our city -- to provide more affordable housing, to make our neighborhoods safer, to create more opportunity and to enhance quality of life.

To keep our city's progress going, I've decided, reluctantly, that as our last resort we must ask taxpayers for more.

Making our situation more difficult is the uncertainty that Springfield has created because it has not yet approved legislation which potentially affects the burden our people will be asked to pay.

I believe that the people of Chicago know that if we propose raising taxes it's because we've exhausted every other option. I believe they also know we've made real progress over the years because of their ongoing support and that we'll continue to invest their tax dollars to improve our quality of life.

I wanted to invest even more in this budget to keep our city moving forward, but unfortunately we can't afford to.

Our commitment to invest in our future begins with all our children.

As we know, the earlier in life our children begin to learn, the better they do in school and the greater the likelihood they'll graduate and go on to college.

Next year, in partnership with Clear Channel Communications, the city will seek to increase parental awareness about Head Start and Early Head Start programs, which are proven to give every child the same chance for a good life. Next year, Department of Health nurses will make home visits to assure the health of 15,000 newborns, with an emphasis on those who are most vulnerable.

And, we'll continue to coordinate immunization education and vaccine distribution for more than 700 clinics serving Medicaid-enrolled and uninsured children.

We will also step up our efforts to keep our children more involved in learning and away from the threat of gangs, guns and drugs.

We are all outraged by the violence against children that has occurred in Chicago in recent months.

Today, I have asked members of the families of some of the children who were senselessly killed to be here, and I'd like for them to stand and be recognized.

It's to their memory that today's City Council meeting is dedicated and that we step up our efforts to make our city safer for all our children.

Over the summer, we more aggressively enforced our city's curfew, a step which has already kept thousands of children out of harms way.

We marched with people from across Chicago and joined them in meetings in schools, all with the idea of doing all we can to prevent this violence from occurring.

Now, along with the Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Park District, we are stepping up our after school programs.

We'll expand After School Matters, the largest program of its kind in the nation which provides positive learning activities for our children during after school and summer hours.

Last year, After School Matters touched the lives of more than 28,000 teenagers. Next year, we hope to serve a record setting 30,000 students.

We will continue to support the operation of the Juvenile Intervention Support Center, through which at risk young people are connected with social services with the goal of keeping them out of the juvenile justice system.

Next year, we will seek to expand the center at other locations across the city.

To protect our most vulnerable children, in 2008, we will begin development of a second S.O.S. Children's Village in the North Lawndale neighborhood.

The safety of our children is paramount.

So is improving the safety of our neighborhoods.

This year, as violent crime increases nationally, the number of violent crimes and homicides continues to drop in Chicago as we remain focused on smarter strategies -- like the Targeted Response Units -- the use of technology, the ongoing hard work of Chicago's police officers and the ongoing effectiveness of our Community Policing program.

Through C.A.P.S., thousands of Chicagoans of all backgrounds have come together to make our streets safer, and I want to thank them.

But, the tide of violence can quickly turn against us if we don't remain diligent.

Two weeks ago, I stood with leaders from the International Association of Chiefs of Police who for the first time have supported a major agenda to prevent gun violence across the nation.

That only underscores that our proposals are reasonable ideas that the majority of Americans can support.

Soon, we'll take our local gun agenda the next step, including our ongoing fight for common sense legislation in Springfield and Washington, D.C., a fight we'll never abandon, a fight we'll continue on behalf of the victims of crime.

Two weeks ago we held a major summit to address the narcotics issue with a goal of targeting the assets of drug kingpins, who I believe are the real terrorists in our society.

As a result, in cooperation with local, state and federal officials we will more aggressively go after their cars, homes and bank accounts.

To stay a step ahead of the gang and drug thugs who still terrorize our communities, next year we will install another 100 safety cameras in neighborhoods across Chicago.

And, we will install an additional 40 cameras at 20 busy intersections to deter people from running red lights, a major safety issue that protects pedestrians as well as responsible drivers.

Cameras are effective in preventing crime. The community deeply appreciates them.

Our communities also appreciate the visible presence of police officers patrolling their beats.

So, next year, I have instructed the Police Department to hire 50 new police officers for street duty and to re-assign 50 current officers from behind desks to walking beats.

I have also asked them to hire another 50 new police officers in our 2009 budget.

During tough economic times, this is a responsible solution to the challenge of better policing our neighborhoods and taking our streets back.

When we get guns off our streets we also save lives. Chicago continues to lead the nation every year in confiscating and destroying guns, over 10,000 last year. And I'd like to thank Chicago police officers for their efforts.

In 2007, C.A.P.S., in partnership with local faith-based institutions, sponsored our most successful gun turn-in program.

It resulted in the recovery of more than 6,700 firearms and gun replicas. Next year I've asked that we fund additional gun turn-in events.

And, to save lives, the Chicago Fire Department will elevate several engine companies to Advanced Life Support Status by upgrading the medical certification of personnel and adding more advanced medical equipment.

At the same time, we will do all we can to assure that the residents of Chicago have faith in the conduct of police officers.

While most officers make us proud every day, nothing angers us more than misconduct by those who have sworn to protect and serve the people of our city.

The new, independent Office of Professional Standards is an important step toward restoring the confidence of the people of Chicago in the process of investigating allegations of misconduct.

People need to see that we take every allegation of misconduct seriously. Police need to see that allegations of misconduct are investigated in a thoughtful, responsible, fair way.

Our new process can work. What I ask is that we give this important reform time to work.

In these complex times, as we work to make our neighborhoods safer, we must also keep our city secure.

In the last year alone we've become better prepared to handle major attacks or catastrophes. As a result, we remain as prepared as we can be given the uncertainty of the future.

We've installed security cameras at our airports and created the capacity to handle problems in underground tunnels.

And, to enhance security at our airports, we've almost completed the installation of a new bio-metric access program for employees.

We will soon reach a milestone by signing an agreement with Cook County and surrounding communities which will assure seamless communications across the region in the event of a tragedy.

And, as a result of the successful pursuit of federal grant funds, next year the Chicago Police Department will purchase another patrol boat to enhance our lakefront and river security.

But, if every Chicagoan is to realize the full promise of our city, we must have both a strong downtown and strong neighborhoods.

We must create greater opportunity, especially for those who are struggling.

And, we must continue to work together to bring new businesses and jobs to your communities, especially to those neighborhoods still in need.

It starts with having a strong workforce, ready to compete in the global economy.

Chicago Public Schools are doing their part by creating vocational and career education high schools across the city.

Next year, I've challenged our workforce development leaders to restructure the city's job training programs to assure that we're providing our workers with the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow -- whether in health care, the hospitality industry, financial or information services.

To help prepare our children for those jobs, we'll invest another \$10 Million in job training and other programs that educate them about career options and internships and provide skill assessments.

For children ages 14 to 21, we recently opened six career development centers that offer job readiness training and job placement services. Next year, we hope to expand training to serve 600 young people.

To bring new business to underserved neighborhoods, we'll target the creation of small businesses.

Most importantly, we'll launch a small business incubator program designed to help entrepreneurs by providing a wide range of business development services.

We will also develop a working partnership with Chicago-area universities to promote business education and implement a small business technology initiative to help them with their many technology needs.

Further, through our small business fund, which is made possible through the allocation of millions in proceeds from the Skyway lease agreement, we will provide Chicago businesses the capital they need to grow.

Our Department of Planning will encourage businesses that bring stability to neighborhoods, such as banks and grocery stores, to locate in them.

We'll continue to partner with nonprofit groups and the private sector to bring new business opportunities.

And, we will rethink how tax incentives might be effective in bringing new opportunity to them.

For those ex-offenders who want to turn their lives around, we will spend more than \$3.3 Million to help make their transition into everyday life more successful.

For veterans, who have offered their lives to make our lives better, we will provide access to housing, job training and other services through our Veterans Assistance Centers.

Next year we will also continue to encourage businesses to hire economically disadvantaged people and ex-offenders through the Business Hiring Incentive Plan.

In Washington, D.C., we will advocate policies that protect those who live in poverty and who are struggling.

This includes revising federal poverty guidelines to better reflect today's cost of living, growing the Earned Income Tax Credit, encouraging a simplification of the federal tax code, preventing mortgage foreclosures and providing health insurance for uninsured poor children.

And, we will continue to do all we can to increase the participation of minority- and women-owned businesses in city business.

I'll be the first to admit that, although we've made progress, we must do better.

To make sure we're doing all we can to improve our performance, I've asked my staff to consider outsourcing the certification of businesses, a process which can delay the ability of new businesses to participate in this important program.

But, we also continue to look to you for your thoughts and support.

As we work to strengthen and create opportunity in our neighborhoods, we'll continue our efforts to make downtown even stronger.

In 2007, the Chicago area was recognized once again as the leader in attracting and retaining corporate headquarters by *Site Selection* magazine.

The magazine reported that in 2006, 165 corporations either brought or expanded their headquarters here, totaling more than \$5 Billion in investment.

Last week, we announced that the first-ever American financial services company owned jointly with a Chinese company will be headquartered here.

Earlier this year, we opened our new International Office in China, an effort which is beginning to see results.

As we enhance our city's worldwide reputation, we are stepping up our efforts to promote Chicago as destination for the fashion, film and sports industries.

This past year, a record \$100 Million worth of film and television projects were shot in Chicago. Next year, we hope to grow the number of films produced here, and to further develop our local filmmakers.

We'll expand programming for Fashion Focus 2008, through which we're working to grow an important industry in Chicago.

And, we will work to attract and promote the growing number of major national and international sports events that take place here.

This month, the city will be hosting the World Boxing Championship, a major international event and a qualifying event for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing.

Of course we will continue to modernize O'Hare International Airport to secure our role in the nation's transportation future.

Next year, to promote ongoing regional economic development, the Department of Aviation will develop several parcels of land on O'Hare Airport property.

Also in 2008, we will advertise a total of nine construction bid packages worth up to \$382 Million to keep the modernization of O'Hare Airport moving forward.

Chicago's neighborhoods must offer new opportunity, but they must also be affordable.

Even with the great progress we've made, the challenge of providing affordable housing to everyone who needs it is growing more complex.

The housing market is slowing and foreclosures continue to rise, forcing some people into rental housing or homelessness.

Thankfully, for many years we've acted to provide more opportunities for people to rent or own homes across Chicago.

Next year we'll build on those efforts, as we continue to work with you to develop new ideas for how we provide even more.

In 2008, the city will use more than \$500 Million in resources to build 13,000 additional affordable housing units.

In 2004, we created the Downtown Density Bonus to preserve and create affordable housing by having developers pay a bonus when they exceed square footage stipulated by zoning requirements.

With \$13 Million generated from the bonus in 2008, next year we will provide rental subsidies, incentives for market rate developers and support for the rehabilitation or construction of 225 units of affordable housing.

In addition, our new affordable requirements ordinance will create 1,000 more affordable units throughout the city in 2008.

Through the Preservation Compact, we are working with the MacArthur Foundation, the Urban Land Institute and other public, private and nonprofit organizations to preserve 75,000 affordable rental units throughout Cook County by the year 2020.

The city has committed \$12 Million and an additional \$150 Million in tax exempt bonds to preserve at least 6,500 affordable rental units over the next three years.

For those who are struggling today to keep their homes as a result of the foreclosure crisis, we will work with local lenders to revise their lending policies to get them to be more responsible and reasonable.

In cooperation with City Treasurer Stephanie Neely, we will conduct several foreclosure workshops and bring together Chicago residents at risk of foreclosure with lenders and financial counselors who can help them.

Next year, we will invest \$3 Million in Skyway funding in our Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness as we seek to get even more Chicagoans off our street and into productive lives and safe housing.

And, we will expand our outreach to help a greater number of homeless individuals.

The city will also work to assist homeless individuals who seek refuge on C.T.A. trains and help them connect to services and permanent housing.

Of course, if we are to keep our city affordable Springfield must act and to either make permanent or extend the 7% cap on the taxable value of homes or many people will be hit hard and possibly forced out of their homes.

It's important to remember that in recent years the single greatest factor in higher property tax bills for many homeowners has been higher assessments.

So, today I hope you will again join me and call on Springfield to act on the 7% cap soon.

As we help those who are struggling to make ends meet, we'll also continue to fight to improve people's lives.

Next year we'll invest more than \$17 Million in Skyway funding in programs for people and neighborhoods -- including our 10 year plan to end homelessness, programs for seniors, ex-offenders and more affordable housing.

For our seniors, through the newly named Department of Senior Services and with new funding, we will deliver Meals on Wheels to nearly 11,000 seniors, up from 2007.

In 2008, we will add four new satellite centers, bringing the total to 13 serving more than 300,000 seniors throughout Chicago.

And, for the protection of our seniors who are in assisted living situations, you have enacted legislation which enables us to better enforce the rules and regulations under which assisted living facilities are required to operate.

Next year, we'll continue our commitment to improve neighborhood quality of life by continuing to invest to improve our infrastructure.

Since 1989, we have invested nearly \$12.5 Billion to improve or construct tens of thousands of miles of sidewalks, streets, alleys and viaducts across our city.

In 2008, we will invest another \$190 Million for the 2008 neighborhood infrastructure bond 'menu' program, along with \$53 Million in commercial paper for water and \$32 Million in bonds for sewers.

This will include the resurfacing of 500 blocks of residential streets, 170 blocks of alleys and 48 blocks of arterial streets along with the reconstruction of 210 blocks of sidewalks and 80 blocks of curbs and gutters.

In addition, construction will begin on two new branch libraries, bringing to 54 the number of libraries that have been constructed or rehabbed.

In partnership with Chicago Public Schools, we'll begin to build what we hope will be 24 new schools in the years ahead. The plan will draw on city redevelopment funds from T.I.F. districts and Chicago Public Schools bond funds.

In 2008, in partnership with the private sector, we will launch a new initiative to provide residents the skills required to better access the Internet.

We will also expand access to technology at all library locations by increasing the number of public desktop and laptop computers.

To continue Chicago's leading role in protecting the environment, we will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide strategies that businesses and residents can employ to limit climate change.

To protect our city's ecosystems, in 2008, we will begin construction of the Ford Calumet Environmental Center at Hegewisch Marsh and develop programming to educate visitors about the importance of the region's resources.

And, to deepen our commitment to recycling in Chicago, in 2008, with the support of the state we will expand the blue cart recycling program to serve 211,000 households, an increase of 131,000.

In 2008, we will enhance Chicago's urban forest by planting thousands of new trees and trimming more than 100,000 parkway trees.

This will bring the number of trees we've planted to well over 500,000, a remarkable achievement.

And, for residents who want to weatherize their homes and protect themselves from higher heating costs, we'll provide \$800,000 through the Emergency Heating Assistance Program.

The plan I've laid out today for Chicago's future will keep our city moving forward.

It maintains city service delivery.

It continues our commitment to good management.

And, it makes new investments to help us realize a brighter future.

But, if we're to achieve a better tomorrow for our people, unless you want to cut services or make substantial layoffs, we must find new revenue.

I know some have said we should have raised property taxes and fees each year. I disagree. Had we done so we would have helped price people out of their homes and out of the city and that's something I won't do.

My approach to taxes has always been that you don't raise them needlessly.

You try to raise them responsibly and when you do you tell people how their tax dollars will be spent, something I've done today.

Complicating our deliberations this year is that Springfield has not yet passed the 7% property tax cap and the Governor hasn't signed the 911 surcharge bill.

Given the uncertainty that's been created because Springfield has yet to act on these two important bills, the recommendations for increasing revenue in the budget document are preliminary. They reflect one approach to balancing next year's budget.

Depending on what Springfield does, working together in the days and weeks ahead, we must come up with a final plan to balance the budget which is fair and reasonable.

We need to agree on a plan that targets revenue increases before asking more of people generally, that asks more of businesses and individuals alike and that protects our environment.

I'm sure many of you will have your own ideas about how we can generate new revenue or better manage government and I'm open to them.

Let me address what is probably the most difficult option contained in the budget you're receiving today -- whether to increase property taxes.

No one, starting with me, wants to raise the property tax. We've held the line on property taxes for the last three years.

This year, if Springfield fails to extend the 7% cap, it would be difficult for the city to raise them.

I repeat: Springfield must enact the 7% cap because if they don't, some homeowners could see their property tax bills increase by hundreds, if not thousands of dollars as a result of higher assessments.

Even though the impact of a city increase on the average property tax bill would be much less, I would find it difficult adding to the burden.

But, if Springfield does act, and if together we decide to raise them -- as difficult as that will be -- one idea on the table is to support our libraries.

Our city has progressed since I've been Mayor in part because we've understood that healthy communities need community anchors, such as libraries, around which new opportunity and development can occur.

Today, there are still communities without branch libraries in our city. They provide safe havens for our children and residents.

They offer ongoing opportunities for our people to learn and for many they offer the only opportunity to be a part of the world through the internet.

Under this idea, the city would use the majority of funding for the ongoing operating expenses of our libraries -- to support the books, programs and other opportunities that make them such a vital part of our city.

For the first time, we would provide an ongoing, dedicated funding source for our library system.

And, most importantly, it would enable us to expand, build or renovate more than 10 libraries across our city -- an important addition to our communities which will enhance our quality of life.

I understand that no one wants to make the difficult choices that are posed in this budget.

But, in the next few weeks, as the elected leaders of Chicago we must put our differences aside and work together to do what's right for the people of our city.

The budget that I've offered today builds on the real and lasting progress we've made and takes our city the next step.

It enhances the quality of life of every Chicagoan.

Yes, it asks more of our taxpayers. But, it offers more in return.

Most importantly, it offers a greater chance for a brighter, more secure future for each and every Chicagoan.

That's why I ask for your support and encourage you to join with me in building a better life for all the people of our city.

Thank you.

Rules Suspended -- TIME FIXED FOR PUBLIC HEARING
ON EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR YEAR 2008.

Alderman Austin moved to introduce the following proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, Mayor Richard M. Daley on October 10, 2007, submitted to the City Council the Executive Budget of the City of Chicago for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, It is provided by law that at least one public hearing shall be held by the corporate authorities on the budget document not less than one 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 week prior to the time of such hearing; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved, That the budget document for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008, and ending December 31, 2008, as submitted by the Mayor to the City Council on October 10, 2007, 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, 2007; 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 October 31, 2007, 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 week prior to the time of such public hearing.

Alderman Austin moved to *Suspend the Rules Temporarily* for the immediate consideration of and action upon the foregoing proposed resolution. The motion *Prevailed*.

On motion of Alderman Austin, 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*.


MIGUEL DEL VALLE,
City Clerk.

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10/10/2007