

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

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

Special Meeting--Friday, October 11, 1996

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 Granato, Haithcock, Tillman, Preckwinkle, Holt, Steele, Beavers, Dixon, Shaw, Buchanan, Huels, Frias, Olivo, Burke, Jones, Coleman, Peterson, Murphy, Rugai, Troutman, Evans, Munoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Solis, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Burrell, Wojcik, Suarez, Mell, Austin, Colom, Banks, Giles, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Doherty, Natarus, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Moore, Stone.

Absent -- Aldermen Gabinski, Bernardini, Hansen.

Call To Order.

On Friday, October 11, 1996 at 10:00 A.M., The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, called the City Council to order. The Honorable Daniel J. Burke, Deputy City Clerk, called the roll of members and it was found that there were present at that time: Aldermen Granato, Haithcock, Tillman, Preckwinkle, Holt, Steele, Beavers, Dixon, Shaw, Buchanan, Huels, Frias, Olivo, Burke, Jones, Coleman, Peterson, Murphy, Rugai, Troutman, Evans, Munoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Solis, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Burrell, Wojcik, Suarez, Mell, Austin, Colom, Banks, Giles, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Doherty, Natarus, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Moore, Stone -- 47.

Quorum present.

Invocation.

Reverend Willard L. Payton of New Birth Church of God in Christ opened the meeting with prayer.

Placed On File -- CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING.

The clerk informed the City Council that the following call for a special meeting was filed in his office on October 8, 1996, at 12:56 P.M.:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 8, 1996.

*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 Friday, October 11, 1996, 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, 1997, and ending December 31, 1997, and the Mayor's Budget Message relating thereto; and
2. To receive the Year XXIII Community Development Block Grant recommendations; and
3. To consider a resolution calling for publication of the Executive Budget and setting the date, time and place of the public hearing thereon.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) RICHARD M. DALEY,
Mayor.

Referred -- EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR YEAR 1997.

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, submitted the following communication which was, together with the Executive Budget for fiscal year 1997, Program and Budget Summary for 1997, Revenue Estimates for 1997 and Draft Action Plan for 1997, *Referred to the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations:*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 11, 1996.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- I transmit herewith the Executive Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 1997, and the Year XXIII 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.

Members of the City Council:

This has been a memorable year for Chicago.

Tourists filled our city this summer. The Bulls won another championship.

Last month, we became the first American city to sign a Sister City agreement with Paris.

The Democratic National Convention this summer put Chicago in the spotlight -- and we showed the world all of our strengths.

Visiting delegates and journalists praised us. Over 8,000 people volunteered -- and Chicagoans deserve the praise.

I'm proud of the great work of the Chicago Police. The force is at its highest strength in 23 years -- and they proved this summer that they are the best police force in the world.

I'm proud of how everyone -- from City employees to businesses to home owners -- worked to improve our city.

Our success wasn't the result of a few months work.

It was part of our ongoing commitment to improve our neighborhoods. Chicagoans have worked hard and worked together for the past seven years to make our city better -- day by day, block by block.

Next year, we'll do even more for our communities. We'll continue the Great Neighborhoods program -- paving streets, planting trees, fixing sidewalks, doing everything we can to make our neighborhoods livable.

It's the little things that make a city great.

Street and alley lights can make the difference between people taking an evening walk or staying home in fear.

A clean, safe park gives kids a place to play -- and good libraries can open the doors of learning.

Streetscapes not only look good -- they also strengthen communities.

When you make a street more attractive, people feel more comfortable. They might get out of their cars and shop in a neighborhood that they would otherwise pass by. Instead of going to the mall, they might shop at neighborhood businesses.

Over the last two years, we've completed 36 streetscaping projects around Chicago -- and 33 of those projects are in the neighborhoods.

Clean streets and sidewalks make a difference too. That's why, this year, we're beginning a major new effort to clean them up.

I propose that we hire 70 inner-city young men and women for seasonal help to hand sweep curbs, sidewalks and tree pits throughout commercial districts in the city.

I also want to expand our community service program with the Cook County Sheriff's Department so that people sentenced to community service can be put to work to make a contribution to their city.

And I want neighborhoods to be guaranteed street cleaning at least six or seven times a year. I propose to double the amount of street sweeping in larger wards to make this happen.

Fixing up neighborhoods isn't just good policy, it's good economics. When you pave a street, people build on that street.

That's why we have a building boom in our city neighborhoods.

Chicago is the top destination in the country for worker relocation. And the United States Department of Commerce estimates that more jobs will be created in our city over the next 10 years than in any other city in the country.

But we can't take comfort from statistics and projections. We know that all Chicago neighborhoods need more work -- there is always more to be done.

We have to continue the course we set seven years ago -- to work hard day by day to improve our neighborhoods, fight gangs, guns and drugs, and put our children first in education.

The city budget is where we make those goals come to life. We have to keep taxes low, spend money wisely, and concentrate our resources where people live -- in neighborhoods.

We have a record to be proud of -- but we must continue to do better.

Doing better means, first of all, holding the line on taxes -- wherever and whenever we can. And I'm proud of our record.

Over the past seven years, the City of Chicago's property tax increases have averaged just over one percent a year.

We've done a better job of holding the line on taxes than any local taxing body. And we imposed a cap on property tax increases.

We've been able to hold the line on taxes because we've worked to make government smaller in size, but greater in performance.

When I first came into office, I said that city government would have to be run like a business or it would go out of business.

Every area is fair game for improvement. And every service that our government provides is open to scrutiny.

We've taken a number of steps to make our government more efficient. As a result of our management policies, our budget is stable. We are the only major city in America in recent years to see its bond rating improve.

Private companies -- using many employees who used to be city workers -- now provide certain services previously done by the city.

We've streamlined the number of business licenses, cutting down on bureaucracy and reduced paperwork.

On top of these steps, we've cut bureaucracy at City Hall. Through privatization, efficiencies and intergovernmental cooperation -- the city will eliminate about 500 positions this year, allowing program expansion in priority areas.

Today, we have fewer non-police employees than when I became Mayor.

City government is run more efficiently -- and our taxpayers will soon see the benefits.

For many years, the Chicago Skyway was a drain on city finances. Today, it is a symbol of financial success and good management.

We've repaired the Skyway and it has proven to be a fast, efficient route to Indiana and Michigan. Usage and revenues are up.

Today -- instead of the city spending to keep the Skyway operating -- the Skyway is helping to fund transportation improvements all across Chicago.

The next phase of our Great Neighborhoods program will be funded in part through bonds from the Chicago Skyway -- paying us back for previous loans and improvements to the Skyway.

We will use the 50 Million Dollars from the bonds to pay for new transportation improvements across the city.

Given the difficulties people have today -- making ends meet, working two or three jobs and raising families -- we must keep taxes as low as possible.

I cannot -- and will not -- ask for a property tax increase this year for overall city services like police, fire, streets and sanitation and street repairs.

This year's budget includes the smallest revenue package to support the corporate fund in the past five years.

I am proposing two tax reforms. One will close the loophole for cellular phones. They dial star 9-9-9 to access the 911 system -- and they should contribute to its operation.

The other proposal will reform parking taxes -- ending the current flat rate and cutting the tax for the vast majority of lots in city neighborhoods.

Another proposed change comes from our libraries. Improving public education is one of my top priorities.

Turning our schools around is the key to our city's future and to the future of our children.

That's why the Library Board has asked for a modest property tax increase -- to make a major new commitment to our children and their education.

Our ongoing commitment to libraries has led to the construction or renovation of 23 neighborhood library branches. We're building new libraries in Edgebrook and near Cabrini-Green. And we've opened the Chicago Bee Building library in Bronzeville.

The Library Board now is proposing Chicago's largest library building and improvement program in years -- 50 Million Dollars over the next three years. Their tax dollars would be used for libraries and related improvements only.

By investing in libraries, we invest in the most important mission we have today -- the education of our children.

This bond package will cost the average homeowner just 6 Dollars each -- which is less than the cost of a paperback book.

In addition to building new libraries, every existing library will benefit from the plan -- providing more money to buy more books, install computers, and make the libraries more accessible.

I ask you to consider this proposal as an investment in Chicago's children.

Overall, this year's budget is an investment in Chicago's future -- our neighborhoods.

Over the last seven years, we've made the largest local reinvestment in Chicago since the 1920s. This past year, we passed the 1 Billion Dollar mark in locally-funded neighborhood improvements.

Every neighborhood in our city has seen these improvements.

Since 1989, we've resurfaced more than half of the residential streets in Chicago. By the end of 1997, 60 percent of our residential streets will have been resurfaced.

By the end of next year, we will also have:

- installed or replaced 480,000 street and alley lights;
- paved more than 5,200 alleys;
- improved more than 1,600 blocks of sewers; and
- replaced more than 2,000 blocks of curbs and gutters.

But these numbers don't tell the whole story of what we've done for Chicago neighborhoods.

We're helping businesses to expand, bringing jobs to communities. On the far west side, we're expanding Dickens Street -- and a bakery is adding more jobs.

The Kenwood/Oakland community is being reborn -- and we're helping this community move forward. We helped bring new home owners to this community through our New Homes for Chicago program.

Now we're working with community leaders to reconstruct Pershing Road, so that jobs can support these new residents.

At Kedzie and 47th Street, the road is being reconstructed and new traffic lights are being added -- cutting down on congestion, making the street safer, and making one of the nation's most productive intermodal rail yards more accessible for industrial shipping.

Work is being done on 69th Street, between Ashland and Halsted. The roadway is being repaved and new traffic signals are going up.

Overall, I'm proposing 150 Million Dollars in bonds to continue financing our Great Neighborhoods program. Together with the library bond proposal, Chicagoans will see 200 Million Dollars this year in neighborhood improvements.

As in the past, aldermen can decide from a menu of street and alley projects depending on the needs of your ward.

Our Great Neighborhoods program will also improve senior centers, repair bridges and viaducts, build fencing and add medians across the city.

We're also making Chicago's streets safer by modernizing traffic signals, putting up speed bumps and creating traffic circles.

But our commitment to neighborhoods goes beyond the capital projects. We've begun new programs that get to the heart of our problems without spending enormous amounts of money.

By improving the way we coordinate spending and set priorities among all the government agencies in Chicago -- the city, the schools, the police and fire departments and the parks -- we have enough resources to make a real difference for communities.

Last summer, all of these agencies worked together to use some of our schools as summer camps for kids.

Even though federal funding for summer jobs was cut by 2 Million Dollars last year, we were still able to hire the same number of kids as the year before -- by leveraging our resources with the Board of Education and the Park District.

And we expanded our efforts -- serving breakfast and lunch for more than 100,000 kids and holding day and play camps for 30,000 more.

Next summer, I want this program to expand. Our schools need to be year-round safe havens for kids. We have the resources to make it happen, we just need to work together.

Year round, our kids need more places to play and schoolyards should be the best places for them.

Our schools must become community anchors -- places where people feel safe and welcome at all times. Libraries, parks, police stations and community centers are anchors that help build healthy communities.

That's why the city is accelerating a joint program with the Board of Education and the Park District to create school parks.

Over the next four years, we plan to spend 50 Million Dollars to replace the concrete around 100 public schools with green space.

Lighting will be improved, fencing will go up, sidewalks will be repaired and new play equipment will be installed.

We're building new schools and improving others all across Chicago. Six new schools opened last month -- including five new elementary schools in Little Village -- and eleven others were expanded.

This increased student capacity by more than 6,000. In 1997, we will increase capacity by more than 2,500 students by building two new schools and expanding two others.

Of course, the most important anchors in every community are home owners.

Over the past year, we've begun a major initiative to increase home ownership in Chicago. Our city mortgage program has helped hundreds of working families to realize their dream of owning homes.

Since this program was launched in February, more than 360 families have purchased homes throughout Chicago. From West Englewood to Edgewater, Irving Park to Humboldt Park, families that never thought it possible are realizing the American dream.

I propose that we continue and expand on this program next year.

And the city's New Homes for Chicago program will be expanded to include vintage homes. By reducing rehab costs, we make more of these homes affordable.

While we're creating new opportunities for people to become home owners, we're also improving our homeless services.

We're maintaining our shelter system -- and we're reaching out to homeless people and others who are at risk of becoming homeless.

We're expanding our child care programs, employment and health care assistance -- and we're providing rental and relocation assistance, so that our city's homeless can find safe, secure housing.

Another important anchor for our communities is police stations.

We're improving police facilities to further strengthen communities across the city. We're replacing four new police stations -- near Cabrini-Green, on the south side in Police District 6, on the northwest side in Police District 16 and in the Central District.

In addition, police special units will be consolidated in Homan Square. This gives these forces better facilities and improves the police presence in the community.

Fighting against gangs, guns and drugs in our communities is one of our most important tasks. I'm working with other mayors and local police chiefs to improve cooperation between law enforcement agencies around the country.

Gangs are sophisticated -- and we need to give our police officers the best information possible about their activities.

This year, the Chicago Police Department will create a new database to track gang crime activity. This new database will allow our gang tactical teams, youth divisions, gang investigators and detectives to work better together.

Next month, the city's new gang and drug house ordinance will go into effect, giving citizens another tool to fight back against illegal activity on their blocks.

All neighborhoods also need people who take pride in their block and are committed to making it better. That's the philosophy behind our community policing program.

But the best crime prevention program -- and the best way to build stronger neighborhoods -- is to create more jobs.

All around the city, we're working with the private sector to bring jobs to places that have gone too long without them.

We're bringing new jobs to communities like North Lawndale, Chatham and Chicago Lawn by attracting new movie theater complexes and adjacent shopping centers.

For decades, Chicago has been our nation's industrial backbone. Today, we've become a national pioneer in industrial redevelopments, cleaning up abandoned, polluted sites and pushing for new federal and state tax credits to help cities clean up brownfields and attract new businesses.

As president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, I've made the passage of new legislation a top priority.

We're already making an impact in Chicago. We're working to establish a 50 Million Dollar funding pool to clean up idle and abandoned properties in order to prepare them for new or expanded use.

We expect to improve more than 500 acres of industrial or commercial property, creating thousands of jobs and bringing in more tax revenue.

While expanding industrial jobs is important, the greatest potential source of jobs in the future will come from conventions and tourism.

Our lakefront is an economic engine that generates billions in revenues and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

If we are aggressive, we can create even more jobs and generate more revenue in the years ahead.

The Chicago Office of Tourism is now overseeing marketing efforts between the state, the Chamber of Commerce and the Convention Bureau to ensure that Chicago is marketed with one voice.

It's just one more illustration of how we're bringing Chicago together and breaking down the walls of bureaucracy to move our city forward.

We've proven that government can do more with less -- and that we can find new ways to provide hope for Chicago's kids, families and homeowners.

My continuing commitment is to do what is best for the future of our children and our city -- to protect and enhance their legacy.

That's a commitment we share. Working together, let's continue on that path.

Thank you.

Rules Suspended -- TIME FIXED FOR PUBLIC HEARING
ON EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR YEAR 1997.

Alderman Dixon moved to introduce the following proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, Mayor Richard M. Daley, on October 11, 1996, submitted to the City Council the Executive Budget of the City of Chicago for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 1997, and ending December 31, 1997; 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, 1997, and ending December 31, 1997, as submitted by the Mayor to the City Council on October 11, 1996, be published in pamphlet form and

made available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk and in the Harold Washington Library Center no later than October 15, 1996; 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 30, 1996, 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; and

Be It Further Resolved, That the City Clerk publish the Mayor's budget address in the Journal of Proceedings of the City Council of the meeting of October 11, 1996.

Alderman Dixon 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.

Thereupon, on motion of Alderman Dixon, 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.