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

Special Meeting -- Wednesday, October 13, 1999

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, Hairston, Lyle, Beavers, Dixon, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Frias, Olivo, Burke, Thomas, Coleman, Peterson, Murphy, Rugai, Troutman, DeVille, Munoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Carothers, Wojcik, Suarez, Matlak, Mell, Colom, Giles, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Doherty, Natarus, Daley, Hansen, Levar, Shiller, M. Smith.

Call To Order.

On Wednesday, October 13, 1999 at 10:00 A.M., The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, called the City Council to order. The Honorable James J. Laski, City Clerk, called the roll of members and it was found that there were present at that time: Aldermen Granato, Tillman, Preckwinkle, Hairston, Lyle, Beavers, Dixon, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Frias, Olivo, Burke, Thomas, Coleman, Peterson, Murphy, Rugai, DeVille, Munoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Carothers, Wojcik, Suarez, Matlak, Mell, Colom, Giles, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Doherty, Natarus, Daley, Hansen, Levar, Shiller, M. Smith -- 42.

Quorum present.

Invocation.

The Reverend Luis D. Jones, Associate Minister of Free Salvation Baptist Church, opened the meeting with prayer.

Placed On File -- CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING.

The Honorable James J. Laski, City Clerk, informed the City Council that the following call for a special meeting was filed in his office:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 6, 1999.

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

DEAR MR. LASKI -- I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Chicago, to be convened at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, October 13, 1999, 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, 2000, and ending December 31, 2000, and the Mayor's Budget Message relating thereto; and
2. To receive the Year XXVI 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 2000.

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, submitted the following communication which was, together with the Executive Budget for fiscal year 2000, Program and Budget Summary for 2000, Draft Action Plan for 2000 and Revenue Estimates for 2000, *Referred to the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations:*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 13, 1999.

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, 2000, and the Year XXVI 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.

We are here today to begin the process of debating and adopting a city budget. As I have said before, this is far more than the process of placing numbers on a

page.

It's a process of putting our priorities in order so we spend our dollars in ways that have the most positive impact on our city and our neighborhoods -- now and in the future.

And this year, I feel a particularly strong sense of responsibility, as we write the first budget of a new century and a new millennium.

This sobering turn of the calendar reminds us that future generations of Chicagoans will live with the consequences of many of the decisions we make in the waning days of this century.

Meeting that responsibility as elected leaders requires us to consider much more than the momentary impact of our decisions.

To do what's right for Chicago, we have to take the long view -- to look beyond today or tomorrow and ask the question:

What must we do now to insure that 10, 20 or even 50 years from today -- our children and their children will be better off?

Look back at Chicago's history. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us -- and rose to the challenges of their day with courage and conviction.

And today, Chicago is a strong, proud and prosperous city because our predecessors a century or more ago made decisions that were not only right for their time, but for ours as well.

They reversed the flow of the Chicago River and averted a cholera epidemic.

They rebuilt the city after the fire and Chicago emerged as the dominant commercial center of the Midwest.

They built the Columbian Exposition propelling Chicago into the ranks of leading international cities like New York, London and Paris.

They commissioned the Burnham Plan -- which remains the standard for urban planning worldwide -- as well as our continuing guide and inspiration.

They understood that transportation would define Chicago and today we're the nation's hub for air, road and rail travel.

These were momentous decisions made by people of vision -- people with the commitment to meet their challenges -- and the courage to dedicate the needed resources to triumph.

As we look back over the last 10 years, you and I together -- along with the millions of Chicagoans we serve and partner with -- have also built a legacy that I believe is every bit as significant as these accomplishments I just listed.

We have spent over \$5 Billion to restore and renew neighborhoods all across Chicago -- improving our quality of life.

We have met challenge after challenge with determination and creativity -- overcoming blight, crime, substandard housing, failing schools and job loss.

We have reversed the tides of disinvestment and decay that have washed over cities from coast to coast.

And while there is always more to be done, signs of progress are everywhere:

Families are staying, seniors are returning, companies are expanding, school enrollment is surging and best of all, test scores are rising. It's reflected in the enthusiasm and involvement of people in the community policing program.

It's visible in other ways as well:

People spending more time on their front porches and in their gardens; children playing on the streets in front of their homes; people walking dogs at night; and park district field houses overflowing with activity.

For Chicago, this has been the decade of neighborhoods -- a decade when we have made neighborhood investment the centerpiece of our citywide revitalization.

By investing in our neighborhoods as we have over the past 10 years, we have shown all America that urban life is not doomed -- that cities don't have to surrender to crime, to job loss or suburban sprawl.

Today, more and more people look to Chicago as the shining example of what can be done when the will and the wisdom to change come together.

They can see how healthy, vibrant neighborhoods and mixed income, ethnically diverse communities are an important part of America's future.

They see that struggling neighborhoods can be rescued with new schools, parks and other investments that help bring jobs into our communities -- strategies aimed at making sure no one is left behind.

More and more people want to live in urban neighborhoods. More and more people want to stay.

They no longer believe that they have to sacrifice quality of life in order to live in the city.

This is no small achievement.

Ten years ago, cities all across America were hanging by a thread -- facing bankruptcy, overwhelmed by crime and struggling to retain their tax base. Today, it's a very different story in cities like New York, Detroit and Philadelphia.

And Chicago led the way.

We were the first city to outsource key functions of government; the first to make community policing our guiding philosophy of crime-fighting, instead of simply a pilot program.

We were the first to take responsibility for the schools. And we were the first city to make neighborhood revitalization more than a slogan.

For us -- it's a mission.

And we cannot let up until that mission is complete -- until every neighborhood in Chicago is lifted to a new level of quality, safety and vitality -- so that all Chicago shares in the blessings of our success.

We must have greater confidence that our achievements will endure whatever challenges lie ahead -- whether it's an economic downturn or some other force beyond our control.

That's why I have begun this budget cycle -- the first of a new century -- by asking us all to do more -- to rise to the challenge as others have before us -- and do the right thing for the next generation -- by making a major commitment today for the promise of a better tomorrow.

Today, I'm challenging each of us to build on our remarkable success of the past 10 years -- and turn this decade of neighborhood investments into a generation or more of neighborhood growth and opportunity.

In our hands rests the power to unleash Chicago's boundless potential -- the power to push us beyond any other city in America in terms of quality of life -- and the power to create economic opportunity for all Chicago.

I truly believe an even greater future awaits us if we can take this step forward together.

So today, with this budget, I'm asking Chicagoans to support Neighborhoods Alive 21 -- a major new investment in our neighborhoods.

It will generate \$800 Million in bond funds during the next four years -- enough to strengthen the community anchors that are so vital to securing the progress we have made in our neighborhoods.

I'm talking about police stations, libraries and firehouses -- institutions that sit at the heart of our communities. Today, many of these key anchors are barely meeting our needs. Tomorrow, they will be obsolete.

Seven of our police stations predate World War II and all of the others were built long before community policing existed. They cannot accommodate the partnership activities between people and police that are central to the C.A.P.S. Program.

Today, five of our 25 police stations are new or under repair and a new police headquarters is also under construction. This plan will enable us to replace or repair all of the others.

Half of our firehouses are more than 50 years old, 22 predate the Depression and four of them were built in the 19th century and cannot accommodate modern emergency equipment.

Under this plan, up to 20 will be renovated or rebuilt, once we complete a final assessment of our overall needs. And that will improve health and safety for people and for fire fighters.

About half of our libraries have been improved this decade.

We want them all to be gateways to knowledge for the next millennium -- not the last one -- by offering Internet access to every citizen in Chicago.

The information superhighway may be the road to success in the next century, but if there's no entrance ramp in our communities, we risk falling behind.

We also want them to be after-school centers for children and gathering places for senior citizens and families.

This plan will make that possible -- all within the next four years.

Neighborhoods Alive 21 will also give us the resources to reach our goal of building 100 school-campus parks. It will provide money for other projects that can bring jobs into our neighborhoods.

This ambitious program to rebuild our community anchors will be paid for with a dedicated tax levy that will cost the average Chicago homeowner about \$1 a month in the first year.

It will rise to \$4 per month by 2003 and will remain flat thereafter.

Beyond Neighborhoods Alive 21, we have also proposed another \$340 Million in water and sewer improvements over the next two years -- paid for with a modest fee increase that will also be phased in.

Every Chicagoan relies on these basic utilities each day, yet parts of the system date back to the last century.

We cannot shrink from the responsibility to guarantee reliable sewer and water service to our citizens. And as part of the plan, we will put in a citywide flood control system to reduce water damage in basements.

I realize we're asking people for a lot. And people rightfully expect us to do more with what we have -- before turning to them for additional taxes.

Taxpayers work hard for their money. They have families to support, mortgage or rent to pay, and homes to maintain.

That's why, year after year, we look for better ways to manage government -- both to save money and to improve services. This year is no different.

All told, the Budget office and various city departments have developed more than 50 separate initiatives this year to make government work better for taxpayers, for business owners -- and for all Chicagoans.

We're changing the way we buy replacement auto parts for thousands of city vehicles -- saving \$3 Million next year alone.

We're consolidating property management -- saving \$1.5 Million annually.

We're reducing paperwork for businesses when they pay their taxes.

We'll recover millions more in costs associated with many city tasks, like issuing bids, foreclosing on and demolishing abandoned buildings and reinspecting properties under construction prior to issuing certificates of occupancy.

These services should be paid for by users, not taxpayers, so we want our fees to more accurately reflect our actual costs.

Through better management, we'll generate millions of dollars in savings this year and millions more in the future.

That money will help us improve services and make additional investments.

For example, we're building a new city service center on the southwest side -- the fourth in the city -- so residents there can take care of public business, pay utility bills and access city services without having to come downtown.

We're cleaning up 12 abandoned service stations as part of a larger effort to beautify neighborhood commercial districts.

And even without the Neighborhoods Alive 21 investments -- we'll still be able to continue our historic commitment to neighborhoods.

Through better management and select fee increases, we'll issue a \$260 Million bond next year to continue the menu program that is so important to your communities -- streets and alleys, sidewalks, lighting, streetscaping and other projects that improve quality of life.

You and I will work together -- as we have year after year -- to identify key projects in your wards.

But if all we do today is continue with the menu program improvements, then some future generation will be burdened with the cost of bringing our public facilities into the 21st century -- and the cost to taxpayers will only rise with time.

So we are asking the people of Chicago to join us now in making this added commitment to Neighborhoods Alive 21, understanding that parting with another dollar each month isn't easy for some families -- and especially senior citizens.

I want to point out that seniors don't pay sewer fees so the increase won't apply to them. And the proposed increase in the vehicle sticker fee won't apply to seniors either.

They'll continue to pay just \$30 a year.

But we also must work hard to keep our neighborhoods affordable for seniors and families through tax relief and affordable housing programs.

Today, we have the senior citizens tax freeze, which locks in property tax rates for seniors, so they are not forced out of their neighborhoods as surrounding property values rise.

We have the homeowner's exemption, which offers tax relief to all homeowners in Chicago.

We have the Chicago Homeowners Assistance Program, or C.H.A.P. -- which protects working families and seniors from rising assessments as their neighborhoods improve. This year, we changed the rules so even more people can qualify and we've begun to market the program more aggressively.

We're also doing a study of the senior housing market to develop recommendations for providing more affordable housing options for our growing elderly population.

Beyond that, making neighborhoods affordable for more people remains the principal focus of our Housing Department, which will dedicate \$270 Million next year under a five year program to create 35,000 units of affordable housing in Chicago.

This includes New Homes for Chicago, low-interest mortgage loan programs that make home ownership possible for more people, S.R.O. housing, senior suites and low-income multi-family rental units.

Chicago is for people of every income. These programs mean that everyone can continue to live here as property values increase and our quality of life rises.

Taken together, our infrastructure and housing programs represent a historic commitment to our neighborhoods.

But neighborhoods are also about people, and this budget also reflects our commitment to help meet the everyday needs of people.

Next year, we're focusing closely on programs serving senior citizens, who play a critical role in our communities. They're especially active in C.A.P.S., they serve as mentors to young people and they're a growing part of our population.

As we start this new century, we need to better understand their concerns so we can better address them.

To that end, we ordered a study of our seniors' needs. It's almost complete -- but with this budget, we've already begun to enhance programs serving seniors.

So, for example, we will assist families that choose to care for elderly relatives rather than putting them in nursing homes. This is the case today in one out of every four households in Chicago.

Our goal is not to encourage dependency on public programs -- but to prolong independence in the family setting -- where many elderly people would prefer to stay.

We're also offering financial planning assistance to seniors so they can better manage their money. Many people are simply not prepared for retirement. We're helping them make the adjustment.

We're expanding the program that links seniors to needed services and recreational activities, as well as providing transportation for shopping.

The Health Department is providing additional health screenings for seniors, as well as stepping up nursing home inspections.

We'll also build two new senior centers with funds from Neighborhoods Alive 21 -- offering more social and recreational activities for seniors.

Finally, we have a new program aimed at linking senior citizens and young people through art classes, tutoring and mentoring programs and after-school activities.

Senior citizens are a resource for young people. Young people, in turn, can bring energy and excitement to the lives of older people. By linking these generations, they can offer each other more meaningful and rewarding lives.

And while we're addressing the vulnerabilities of the elderly, we also have to focus on the children.

In a city with some of the world's finest hospitals, it's inexcusable that some of our children are at risk of easily preventable diseases. Today, 90% of our children under the age of five are immunized, but the other 10% remain at risk.

Next year, our Health Department will zero in on the remaining 10% by more aggressively marketing services in high-risk communities.

Making families healthy is just one step. Helping them balance work and family obligations is equally important -- especially in single-parent homes.

So we have been working with government, corporate and community partners to build new child-care centers in Chicago, creating 2,000 new full-day child care slots.

This is just one small part of a much larger initiative to improve the quality of child care throughout the city.

We want to make our day-care facilities gateways to the school system instead of merely baby-sitting services.

Shortly, we will be announcing a major public/private partnership to invest in professional development, facilities improvements and better curriculum for day-care centers.

By improving day-care facilities, we'll help insure that these young children are safe and secure when they're away from home and ready for school on their first day of kindergarten.

This is just a sample of what's to come as we enter the new century and the new millennium. Every agency of city government is approaching the next year with a commitment to change and improve.

Our Police Department has a series of new training initiatives. They are sending veteran police officers back to school to sharpen their skills.

The fight against gangs, guns and drugs continues each day on many fronts -- in our streets, in the courts, in the state legislature and in Congress.

Planning and Development will push ahead with ambitious plans to bring more new jobs into our neighborhoods -- developing the USX site and the comprehensive Englewood redevelopment plan we announced last week.

We're renovating old buildings downtown to house new technology companies. This growing partnership with the technology industry is helping position Chicago for leadership in the high-tech economy of the future.

There is so much we are doing today to make Chicago the most dynamic, exciting and appealing city in the world.

But I have to emphasize that this budget -- more than any other -- must do more than reflect our current priorities.

It must also lay the foundation for a stronger future.

The politically easy path would be to avoid higher taxes and fees, trim revenue items that are unpopular and pass only those with the least resistance.

But I believe that what we're proposing here is both reasonable and responsible, given the needs and the opportunities we have before us.

The needs are undeniable: there are still neighborhoods in Chicago struggling from decades of disinvestment, assailed by gangs, guns and drugs and yearning for the chance to break through.

There are many families coping with substance abuse, domestic violence, inadequate health care and human failure. They need a helping hand.

There are more and more seniors who want to remain active and independent in a family setting.

There are many children who still need quality day-care and basic immunization.

There are businesses throughout Chicago verging on bankruptcy because they're just not ready to compete in the information economy. We can't turn our back on them -- and the jobs they provide.

On the other hand, there are growing industries like technology, finance and health care bursting at the seams -- if only we can offer them a fertile environment for growth, including a well-trained workforce.

Somehow, we -- together -- must build a future in which all of these needs are met -- a future in which no one who is willing to work hard is left behind.

And so I ask you today -- all of you -- to rise to this challenge. I ask you to work with me -- block-by-block -- to improve the quality of life in every neighborhood of Chicago.

I ask you to meet this awesome responsibility with a deep commitment to do what is right for Chicago -- not what is easy.

And that is to keep all of Chicago's neighborhoods moving forward into the next century.

And to create a new generation of growth and opportunities in those neighborhoods.

Thank you.

*Rules Suspended -- TIME FIXED FOR PUBLIC HEARING
ON EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR YEAR 2000.*

Alderman Dixon moved to introduce the following proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, Mayor Richard M. Daley, on October 13, 1999, submitted to the City Council the Executive Budget of the City of Chicago for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2000, and ending December 31, 2000; 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, 2000, and ending December 31, 2000, as submitted by the Mayor to the City Council on October 13, 1999, 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, 1999; 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 3, 1999, 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 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.

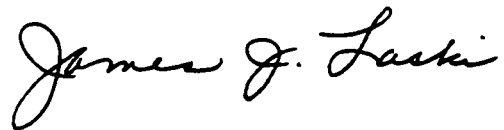
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SPECIAL MEETING

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Adjournment.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James J. Laski". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

JAMES J. LASKI,
City Clerk.

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10/13/99