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COPY

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

Special Meeting -- Thursday, November 3, 2005

at 10:00 A.M.

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

OFFICIAL RECORD.

RICHARD M. DALEY
Mayor

JAMES J. LASKI
City Clerk

Attendance At Meeting.

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

Absent -- Aldermen Murphy, Troutman, Doherty, Stone.

Call To Order.

On Thursday, November 3, 2005 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 Flores, Haithcock, Tillman, Preckwinkle, Hairston, Lyle, Beavers, Stroger, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Cárdenas, Olivo, Burke, T. Thomas, Coleman, L. Thomas, Rugai, Brookins, Muñoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Solis, Ocasio, Burnett, E. Smith, Carothers, Reboyras, Suarez, Matlak, Mell, Austin, Colón, Banks, Mitts, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Natarus, Daley, Tunney, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Moore -- 46.

Quorum present.

Pledge Of Allegiance.

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

Invocation.

Reverend Michael M. Boland, Administrator of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, opened the meeting with prayer.

Placed On File -- CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING.

The Honorable James J. Laski, City Clerk, informed the City Council that the following call for a special meeting was filed in his office on October 27, 2005 at 10:59 A.M.:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 27, 2005.

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 Thursday, November 3, 2005, 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, 2006, and ending December 31, 2006, and the Mayor's Budget Message relating thereto; and
2. To receive the Year XXXII 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 2006.

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 2006, *Referred to the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations:*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

November 3, 2005.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- I transmit herewith the proposed 2006 Budget Recommendations and the Year XXXII 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.**

Today, we propose to you our budget plan for the coming year.

As always, it's a thick document, filled with dry numbers.

But those numbers reflect our collective commitment to the city we want Chicago to be.

This year, even within the constraints of a tight budget, we will continue our commitment to good services, safe neighborhoods, greater opportunity and a high quality of life.

But before I discuss the specific investments we will make to advance these goals, I want to speak about the Chicago I believe in.

I believe in a city that works together on behalf of each and every resident, wherever they live, whatever their background.

I believe in a city of hope, where every child has an opportunity to live in a safe neighborhood, attend a good school and make the most of their lives and their potential.

We are not there yet. And to get there, we have to continue to battle problems and trends that are part of our broader society.

Across America, we have seen rising poverty and a growing gulf between rich and poor.

This was underscored by the tragedy in New Orleans, where the people with the least were literally left behind.

While New Orleans may have represented this trend in the extreme, urban areas across the country reflect it. And turning it around requires a day-in, day-out commitment, starting with education.

As we saw quite clearly in New Orleans, education is the dividing line between those who succeed and those who are left behind.

That's why ten years ago, when so many seemed willing to continue to let our schools drift and our children fail, I asked for responsibility over Chicago's public schools.

I knew we couldn't be the city we want to be with failing schools.

We have come a long way. Our test scores are up. We've built new schools and improved the learning environment. Schools with chronically poor results are being reconstituted. We're making progress.

But I'm not satisfied. We can do better, and we will do better.

For decades, public housing in our city was failing, warehousing senior citizens and the poor, rather than offering them the opportunity to live in safe, healthy homes.

So we asked for leeway from the federal government to reinvent public housing in Chicago and make it work for its residents and taxpayers. This was the most ambitious public housing effort in the nation.

Many questioned the wisdom of tackling a problem of this magnitude. But to build the city I believe in, we can't abide tens of thousands of our fellow citizens living in the crime-ridden squalor public housing had become.

This is about saving souls and rebuilding lives.

Today, the failed experiment of public housing high-rises is almost over. Tens of thousands of former residents have made the transition to better housing -- and a better life.

Motivated by the same commitment to improve life for every child and family in our city, we've implemented strategies to make our neighborhoods safer.

We have created greater opportunity by revitalizing downtown and by creating new neighborhood jobs for our hard-working women and men.

And we have invested in new parks, libraries, police and fire stations so our neighborhoods are places where families want to live and businesses want to locate.

I want Chicago to work for all Chicagoans.

I want every neighborhood to bloom.

I want every resident of our city to take responsibility for their children and their schools, for their homes, their blocks and their neighborhoods.

So, in the seventeenth balanced budget I present for your consideration, we renew our commitment to a city that works for everyone.

It is a responsible budget that acknowledges there is more to be done to keep our city moving forward.

It protects taxpayers and supports those who most need our help.

We will enhance early learning for our children.

We will do more to make our neighborhoods safer and our city more secure.

We will provide more affordable housing for our seniors, renters, families and homeless.

We will strengthen our economy and create more well-paying jobs in our neighborhoods and provide job training for those who need it.

We will protect our seniors, who have given so much to our city.

And we will continue to invest in new and improved streets, alleys and sidewalks, in security cameras and brighter streetlights -- to improve quality of life in every neighborhood.

As we move our city forward, I am mindful that people expect more from me when it comes to preventing misconduct and maintaining high ethical standards in government.

I have taken responsibility for the problems that have occurred, and today again I want to make it clear that we will root out those who engage in misconduct and hold them accountable for their misdeeds.

No one can change the past, we can only learn from it.

We are implementing many reforms to help prevent misconduct and we will continue to take real and tangible steps to assure checks and balances are in place to protect our taxpayers.

We are watching hiring, promotions and contracts carefully so that anyone who cheats the taxpayers will be fired, no matter who they are.

And our new Inspector General is empowered to get to the bottom of misconduct, whenever and wherever it occurs.

Next year's budget is tight, like the budgets for most other cities and states, so we will do a better job with the resources we have.

The good news is that this year's revenues are exceeding expectations.

I am optimistic about our city's long-term economic future because of the steps we're taking to grow our economy -- both in our neighborhoods and downtown.

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And the O'Hare Modernization Program will have a positive impact on our economy for years to come, both in the city and in the metropolitan area.

But when it comes to projecting city revenues, we must be responsible and cautious, just as any family would be in preparing its household budget.

The future is uncertain.

The housing market is important to our city's revenue stream, and no one can predict how much longer it will remain strong.

With the cost of energy increasing, inflation may continue to rise, but no one can predict how that will affect consumer spending.

We must be ready to meet the threat of terrorism.

No one can predict the weather and the extent to which a major storm might impact our city's budget.

And even with the responsible agreement we reached with the unions this year, the cost of government will increase next year because of higher wages, pensions and the cost of health care.

The cost of personnel -- including wages, health care and fringe benefits -- will comprise 82 percent of next year's spending.

I want to repeat that. The cost of personnel will comprise 82 percent of next year's budget.

So how do we plan to balance next year's budget and keep Chicago moving forward?

We will again deliver on my commitment to improve management and invest the savings in our city, before turning to taxpayers.

This summer I announced we would reduce non-safety spending across the board by 3 percent over the last six months of this year.

In next year's budget I have ordered another \$61 Million in additional management improvements and reduced spending.

We will negotiate better service contracts for our city. We will enhance the use of technology and cut administrative vacancies.

We will continue to phase out the Hired Truck program and make our infrastructure departments more accountable.

We will step up our efforts to recruit new women- and minority-owned businesses as city contractors and speed up payment to all vendors.

We will maintain accountability in our procurement systems and adhere to our stronger certification regulations to assure that only qualified companies participate in city business.

As a result of these and many other management improvements, we will have saved over \$2 Billion since I've been Mayor, which, in turn, we've invested in our neighborhoods and people.

In next year's budget, even as we enhance service delivery, there will be 4,200 fewer non-sworn employees than when I took office.

Our financial situation would be far worse today, had we not taken these steps.

Next, we will deliver on my commitment to devote proceeds from the sale of the Skyway to balance our budget and invest in our people and businesses, the uses of which I will review throughout this speech.

The long-term lease of the Skyway was the first transaction of its kind in the nation -- and it was a good one for the City of Chicago.

In 2006, we'll use \$50 Million from the Skyway's mid-term account to help balance the budget, along with \$25 Million in interest from the long-term account.

Finally, we will use higher-than-expected revenues to balance the budget.

But even with the spending cuts and increased revenues, we still need additional revenue to maintain services and keep our city moving forward.

I will not turn to our hard-working homeowners, renters and business owners to increase revenues.

I will not raise property taxes next year.

I repeat. I will not raise property taxes next year.

This will make three years in a row that the city has not raised property taxes.

What our people need is fundamental reform in the property tax assessment system or an extension of the 7 percent cap on home values, both of which only Springfield can approve.

And state government must also fundamentally reform the way Illinois funds

education, so that the state accepts its responsibility to our children and takes the burden for funding education off local taxpayers.

So I ask all of you to contact your state legislators and insist that they make education-funding reform their top priority. And ask your constituents to contact them, too.

In deciding where to find the limited new revenue we need, I was determined to limit its impact and make sure it does not harm our economy.

No one wants to raise taxes or fees, but I have concluded that, in order to keep our city moving forward, the only new or increased tax should be an increase in the cigarette tax.

I debated whether to do this.

But with our uncertain revenue picture and with union contracts up for renewal in 2007, we must continue to be fiscally responsible.

I cannot and will not threaten our bond rating, which we've worked so hard to build and which saves tax dollars over the long term.

I will not cut back on the services our people need.

Today, I want to put everyone on notice that many of the services we offer to the neediest Chicagoans are threatened because block-grant funding may be substantially cut in Washington, D.C. next year.

Together, we must do all we can to protect our people and prevent this from happening.

Let's ask Washington, D.C. to help America first.

As we fight in Washington, D.C. to protect those who most need our support, we will work even harder to make city services more accessible to them in Chicago.

Next year, we intend to hold City services fairs in neighborhoods across the city. These would be similar to the one-stop assistance center we set up in Fosco Park last September for evacuees from Hurricane Katrina.

At each of these fairs, every Chicagoan will be able to get information about, and apply for, every service we offer.

If you're a parent you'll be able to enroll your children in after-school, early childhood and other programs.

If you're a taxpayer, you can learn about and apply for programs that give you a break.

Low-income residents could apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit and other federal, state and local tax refunds.

Ex-offenders could obtain information on job training programs.

These fairs will be pilot programs. We'll figure out what worked and what didn't. And we'll use that information to establish three permanent centers that will provide one-stop shopping for every city service.

The 2006 budget commits additional resources to boost neighborhood services, improve government accountability, and enhance public safety.

To serve the public's need for direct, front-line service providers, the budget adds positions in the Streets and Sanitation Department.

These positions will include tree trimmers; drivers for street sweepers and garbage and snow-removal trucks; and employees to maintain and repair the city's lighting system.

In 2006, we will begin unifying 1,000 miles of communications fiber to form one homeland security grid so that Chicago remains at the forefront of technology.

This budget adds crews to the Office of Emergency Management and Communications to maintain this expanding network.

The budget also adds front-line supervisors to the Traffic Management Authority.

The resources of the Inspector General's Office will be enhanced to ensure it has the necessary tools to fully investigate and root out corruption, fraud, and other misconduct.

New attorneys will be hired to help direct investigations and to draft investigative reports. Additional resources will also be provided to investigate contract fraud and to conduct audits.

The budget adds positions to the Department of Personnel. Many of the positions will be needed to comply with the requirements of the federal monitor who has been assigned to help the city comply with a court decree on hiring.

Some of the positions will be added to help improve the city's hiring process.

Even as we add these new front-line positions, the city's 2006 workforce will

remain at the same level as 2005, largely because we've cut administrative vacancies.

And it is at the lowest level since I took office, even as we added 1,500 new police officers during the 1990s.

As we enhance service delivery to all the people of our city, our priority remains all the children of Chicago.

The best way to end poverty and give every child the same chance for a good life is through a good quality education.

Through the Chicago Public Schools, we'll stay focused on our efforts to improve education for every child in every school, starting with classroom learning -- reading and math.

We'll put additional resources into vocational, technical and R.O.T.C. programs.

We'll step up our efforts to reform our high schools especially those that chronically under-perform from year to year.

Although our schools face many financial challenges, I've asked them to find new ways so that we can continue to build new schools and improve the learning environment.

If we want our kids to learn, to compete and to succeed in life, we can't start their education at the age of five and end their school day at three o'clock.

So through child care, early childhood, after-school, summer school, summer camp, Park District, library and other programs, Chicago has assembled a year-round, all-day system of services and activities to give every child, especially those who live in poverty, the same chance for a good life.

We know we can be most helpful to those children who live in poverty when we get to them early in life.

When they miss out on those critical early years, these children are at a disadvantage the day they enter kindergarten -- falling behind even before they begin.

So we have enhanced our efforts to improve pre-natal care. And today our city's infant mortality rate is lower than at any time in the last sixteen years.

Next year, we'll meet our goal of providing home nurse visits to over 17,000 mothers and newborns, emphasizing those who are most at risk.

And we'll continue to provide immunizations at more than 700 clinics serving children who are uninsured or covered by Medicaid.

We've increased the number of early childhood learning slots by 2,500 and raised the quality of service, steadily turning community-based day care into quality pre-school programs with certified teachers and better-trained staff.

This year alone, through our network of community and faith-based organizations we are providing Head Start to more than 17,000 low-income children from 14,000 families.

Next year, as a result of a partnership with the University of Chicago, our Department of Children and Youth Services will recruit more at-risk children into these important programs by better targeting communities with the greatest child-care needs.

And we will help more Head Start teachers earn early childhood education degrees from Kendall College.

Despite our best efforts, however, some families still lack access to pre-school or fail to enroll their children.

So the Department of Children and Youth Services and our public schools have launched a map-based website that will enable parents and guardians to easily locate city-supported programs for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

After School Matters has grown from three schools serving 180 teens in 2000 to 37 schools and more than 100 community-based organizations serving more than 20,000 young people.

In our high schools, we are offering more youngsters a safe, healthy alternative to the streets during dangerous afternoon hours.

Today, more than 160 city-funded youth development organizations provide after-school mentoring and counseling programs, as well as specialized outreach to homeless young people.

Many young adults, however, need a part-time job, and that's where we've encouraged businesses to help.

This past summer more than 11,000 young people participated in our summer jobs program, supported by 170 corporations and nine public partners.

And, thanks to the Skyway, next year we will invest another \$1 Million in after school programs serving at-risk youth.

Of course there are still neighborhoods that are underserved, so as we look to the year ahead, we will systematically identify gaps in service and work to meet those needs -- child by child and neighborhood by neighborhood.

To keep every child safe, I have asked our Police Department to step up enforcement of our city's curfew.

I want our school and our police leaders to better engage the community -- parents and businesses alike -- in our Parent Patrol and Safe Haven programs. And I hope we expand our partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office through which we help young people at risk.

We will also expand the availability and quality of learning through Chicago's public libraries.

This is an important part of our overall educational program -- for adults as well as children, and it's another area in which Chicago has been a national leader:

Since 1989, we've built or fully renovated 48 libraries.

Within the next few months, four more new branch libraries will open.

Next year, we will increase the number of teachers in Chicago branch libraries to help students with homework. And we'll explore the possibility of offering adult literacy programs in our libraries.

Thanks to the Skyway, in 2006, a new integrated system will be installed to make the libraries more user-friendly, and provide upgraded book circulation and materials acquisition. And our libraries also will increase their on-line resources.

As we strengthen our commitment to our children, we will also do even more to improve the lives of Chicago's seniors, who have given so much to our city.

We already have opened five new satellite senior centers in neighborhoods across the city, and in 2006 we plan to open centers in three additional communities: Chatham/Greater Grand Crossing, West Ridge and Norwood Park.

In 2005, we added programs for seniors in existing neighborhood public facilities, beginning in Edgewater. Next year, we will expand senior programs.

We also will expand our Crisis Unit to strengthen its ability to identify isolated and at-risk seniors and provide services to them.

Through the Senior Well-Being Task Force, we trained 27,000 government and utility workers to look out for seniors at risk, and distributed 300,000 door hangers

in collaboration with the Fire Department's High-Rise Task Force. We will train even more in 2006.

We will deliver 2.7 million meals to the homes of frail seniors through the Meals on Wheels program -- partly because we're devoting additional funding from the Skyway to this program.

And next year, the Department on Aging and the Department of Housing will announce a five-year senior housing plan.

To enhance the health and safety of every Chicagoan, we will redouble our efforts to prevent the West Nile virus.

We are doing all we can to anticipate the spread of the avian flu to this nation by working closely with local hospitals and health organizations, as well as the state and federal governments.

We recently announced that we will devote \$5 Million from interest income from the Skyway to provide heating assistance this winter to low-income Chicagoans.

And for the second year, we will invest Skyway proceeds in a new case management system to provide enhanced social services to city residents.

As we work to protect the people of our city, we will also step up our commitment to keep our city affordable -- especially for seniors, low-income Chicagoans, long-time residents and the homeless.

We intend to expand our Homestart program, which sells city-owned land to builders who agree to provide affordable housing in their developments.

We will expand our policy of providing fee waivers to encourage developers to include affordable units in market-rate housing developments.

Already, through our three five-year housing plans and other programs, we've helped support 125,000 units of affordable housing in our city.

Our third five-year plan, calls for investing almost two billion dollars to help build, preserve and assist 48,000 affordable housing units.

Using funds generated by the statewide rental subsidy legislation, which we proposed and passed in Springfield last year, we will subsidize rents for up to 2,000 additional households next year.

Because of the Skyway, we will provide affordable housing to those who most need our support -- through programs like our Emergency Housing Assistance Program.

We are a quarter of the way through our Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, and we have already increased the number of families diverted from the shelter system by more than 2,500 each year.

This means that we have prevented these families from becoming homeless. They are making the transition to a better life and a permanent place to call home.

And, thanks to the Skyway, we expect an additional 600 homeless families will be able to find permanent housing.

Thanks to the downtown density bonus, developers have committed \$3.7 Million toward an affordable housing fund to create housing for working families in our neighborhoods.

We will form a community land trust so the new housing we develop remains affordable for generations to come.

We'll continue to help police officers and public school teachers become first-time homebuyers, making it possible for them to find housing close to their work. We will expand this program to include firefighters.

Jobs and housing are closely linked, and we'll add even more employers to our Employer Assisted Housing initiative.

To help those who need assistance with the homes they already own, we'll expand our initiative to help provide facade and other exterior repairs.

And, earlier this week, you approved our slum nuisance ordinance, which gives us greater ability to crack down on negligent property owners and turn vacant and abandoned buildings over to responsible owners so they can be rehabbed and preserved as affordable housing. And I want to thank you for that.

Through our groundbreaking plan to transform public housing, we will continue to improve the housing and opportunities for residents who, for far too long, were trapped in a cycle of failure and poverty.

Because the C.H.A. and its partners have worked together, we have made real progress toward our goal of creating healthy mixed income communities.

Already 14,000 units have been built or rehabbed, halfway toward our goal.

Almost all of our 58 senior buildings, housing more than 9,000 seniors, have been renovated to create safe, attractive living spaces.

More than 1,000 homes have been rehabbed or constructed. And, thousands more homes and apartments will be available this spring.

When we help give people a new home we're doing more than providing them new places to live -- we're revitalizing communities and rebuilding their lives.

To help them do that, through our Service Connector program, the C.H.A. has invested more than \$20 Million a year to provide families and individuals with the help they may need to make the transition to a better life.

As a result of these efforts, more than 4,000 families have successfully relocated out of the C.H.A. and more than 1,000 families have successfully moved back.

More than 5,000 C.H.A. residents have found employment through our efforts.

Many city agencies have contributed to rebuilding C.H.A. neighborhoods. So have religious leaders, civic, business and community leaders, all of whom I thank for their support.

Thanks to their efforts, C.H.A. residents who once lived outside the mainstream of Chicago are beginning to know Chicago as you and I know it -- as a city of strong neighborhoods offering a good quality of life.

Nothing is more important to our quality of life than a safe neighborhood.

Today, Chicago's crime rate is far lower than it was a decade ago. Domestic violence and hate crimes are dropping as well.

But we can never take this good news for granted.

Thirteen years ago, Chicago was the first major city to implement community policing.

We've taken officers from behind desks and put them on the streets.

We've installed neighborhood cameras to uncover those who engage in crime. These have played an important role in disrupting street crime.

We've used technology to better identify where crime occurs so that even as we protect every neighborhood, we can better target resources to crime hot spots.

Working with the U.S. Attorney's Office this year we expanded Project Safe Neighborhoods to a fifth district in our city.

And with the support of Governor Blagojevich and many others, we passed legislation in Springfield to close the gun-show loophole and toughen penalties for unlawful use of weapons.

As we look to the future, we will never give up or give in when it comes to protecting our children and families from gun violence.

We will continue to propose stronger gun legislation and fight any effort to weaken them.

In next year's budget we will increase the number of security cameras and red-light cameras to enhance neighborhood and traffic safety.

And we will better coordinate our efforts with the Cook County State's Attorney to prosecute domestic violence in the recently opened Domestic Violence Court. If you don't think domestic violence is a problem, you should know that our police receive one domestic violence call every two and a half minutes.

Our community policing program had great success this past year.

Through the Community Policing Leadership Development Institute, more than 1,000 new community and religious leaders are now working to make their neighborhoods safer.

Since the beginning of this year, more than 4,300 seniors and children have attended Safe and Sound forums to learn how to better protect themselves.

And during the summer, C.A.P.S. helped us identify thousands of neighborhood problems that needed to be addressed through our yearly Operation Clean.

But our community policing program can always improve, and next year it will. We need to focus on starting more block clubs -- because they are the foundation of our community policing efforts.

To assure that the bond between our police department and the people of our city is secure, we must do even more to assure that racial profiling is a thing of the past.

I commend Senator Barack Obama for passing a state law that requires every jurisdiction in Illinois to compile data to better understand this problem.

That study found that more needs to be done in every part of Illinois, including Chicago, to make sure racial profiling never occurs. And, in Chicago, we will.

I also commend Superintendent Cline for conducting forums across the city to strengthen the bond between police and the people they serve.

Further, they are reaching out to ministers, community leaders and others from every part of our city to involve them in revising their policy on conducting traffic stops.

The Police Department is moving forward with its plan to install cameras in cars, to assure that every stop is monitored to protect both drivers and officers.

We've opened nine new district police stations in the last three years, and there are more to come. These stations are designed to be welcoming places, where residents and police officers can work together to reduce crime.

Next year, both the Police and Fire Departments will conduct new entrance exams to assure that their departments even better reflect the city.

Toward that goal, the Chicago Fire Department will continue its community relations and diversity initiatives and provide human relations training for field personnel.

When it comes to neighborhood safety, as part of our Neighborhoods Alive 21 program, four new firehouses will open next year.

The Fire Department will increase its use of technology to enhance everyday operations.

Among other steps, it will implement a new automated Fire Prevention Inspection system using wireless hand-held systems that will enable prompt sharing of safety data both internally and with other city departments.

As we all know, every major city in our nation is a potential target for terrorism.

I want to assure the people of Chicago that in these uncertain times, we are as prepared as we can be, and we are always looking to enhance our city's security.

We have one of our nations most modern and up-to-date 911 emergency management facilities.

Because we must continue to be at the cutting edge of technology, in 2005, we acquired 388 miles of fiber optic cable in a settlement with RCN, and 175 miles through an agreement with Commonwealth Edison.

Next year, we will unify our existing fiber optic cable system to create a Chicago security grid, providing the backbone necessary to support an array of public safety, homeland security and traffic management technologies.

And we will explore opportunities to deploy traffic sensors, and chemical and biological sensors across the city.

This further enhances quality of life, as do our ongoing efforts to improve the infrastructure of every neighborhood.

We should all be proud that over the last sixteen years we've done what no other city has accomplished.

With taxpayer support, we've invested billions of dollars to improve our streets, sidewalks, alleys and lighting and our water and sewer systems.

All you have to do today is look around Chicago to see the results of our efforts to bring our Neighborhoods Alive.

Thousands of miles of new streets, alleys and sidewalks. Sixteen new or fully renovated police stations. Ten new fire stations. Fifty-three new libraries and senior centers.

Next year, even in these tight times, we will continue to invest in our streets, alleys, sidewalks and lighting through our \$150 Million-Dollar Neighborhoods Alive infrastructure program, which includes the aldermanic menu program.

Further, we'll improve infrastructure for bike riding in our city, continue the rebuilding of our shoreline and improve our delivery of water and sewer services.

And, because of the Skyway lease, we'll continue to invest in our city facade building improvement program.

Just as I'm proud of these neighborhood investments, I'm also proud that we're doing all we can to create jobs both downtown and in neighborhoods.

September 30 -- the day we announced the F.A.A.'s approval of our plan to modernize O'Hare -- was a great day in our city's history. And it will be remembered as an even greater day for our city's future.

O'Hare is the anchor that will keep Chicago the state's economic engine, the nation's transportation center, and the Northern Hemisphere's entryway for goods and services for years to come.

It will create thousands of new, well-paying jobs for the men and women of Chicago and the region.

It will generate up to \$18 Billion a year in economic activity on top of the \$38 Billion O'Hare generates today.

Every part of Chicago will benefit.

But Chicago has never relied on just one part of its economy to create new jobs, attract or expand new industry.

We've succeeded because of our economy's diversity.

From the north side to the south side to the west side to downtown, we've retained or recruited thousands of good jobs -- at companies ranging from CNA Insurance and Mittal Steel in the Loop, Lakin General, S & C Electric, Ford Motor Company and Columbia Metal Spinning in the neighborhoods.

We will continue to make the investments needed to create well-paying neighborhood jobs.

And, thanks to the Skyway we'll invest another \$1 Million toward the creation of small neighborhood businesses, including new opportunities for women and minority ownership.

And we will work to assure that the retail shopping needs of every neighborhood are being met.

It is unacceptable to me that citizens in some parts of our city have greater access than others to retail outlets. Next year, we must do more to correct this disparity.

In addition, we will make it easier to do business in Chicago.

Next year will be the first full year of operations for our new Department of Business Affairs and Licensing.

Its mission is to empower business and serve as the first-stop gateway for city services, assist with licensing, and other business development needs.

It provides the information, on line, that is needed to start up a business.

But without good job training, a good job won't be within reach of our workforce.

We've taken the lead in promoting jobs for the ex-offenders in our city.

No one who sincerely wants to turn their lives around should be penalized for doing so.

Beginning in this year and continuing through 2009, we're devoting \$1 Million a year from the Skyway to help train ex-offenders for well-paying jobs.

This effort has placed 600 ex-offenders in jobs over the last two years.

These are people like Lafayette Haynes, who learned woodworking through one of our programs, landed a job with a good company, and has already received his first raise.

And I support the ordinance introduced by Alderman Beavers to provide incentives to businesses that hire apprentices for union jobs.

The progress that we have made in the sixteen years has truly changed our city.

The lives of our people have improved.

But, given the challenges we face, we can never rest on our accomplishments.

There is always more to be done.

As we move forward, I challenge every person here today and throughout our city to continue to be part of the solution.

We've made real and lasting progress in our city because we've worked together on the shared problems our city faces, and have not allowed our city to be divided by race, ethnic background or income.

Today, I challenge each of us -- our faith-based community, our business leaders, our community leaders and our political leaders -- to redouble their efforts to assure that we are moving our city forward on behalf of all the people of Chicago.

We're one city, with one future. As long as we continue to work together, our future will be even brighter.

Thank you.

Rules Suspended -- TIME FIXED FOR PUBLIC HEARING
ON EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR YEAR 2006.

Alderman Beavers moved to introduce the following proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, Mayor Richard M. Daley on November 3, 2005, submitted to the City Council the Executive Budget of the City of Chicago for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006; 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, 2006, and ending December 31, 2006, as submitted by the Mayor to the City Council on November 3, 2005, 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 November 7, 2005; 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 30, 2005, 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*.

JAMES J. LASKI,
City Clerk.