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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Financing Proposed For New McCormick Place Hotel**

The development of a 1,200-room "headquarters hotel" adjacent to the McCormick Place convention center on the Near South Side would be supported with up to \$55 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) through a financial proposal introduced to City Council today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The \$421.5 million project at the northeast corner of Cermak Road and Prairie Avenue is being planned to accommodate large groups that hold conventions and shows at McCormick Place. Projected to create 3,700 temporary construction jobs, the hotel would include banquet and meeting rooms, restaurants, retail space, and offices.

"This is a true partnership between the City and McCormick Place that will fill a long-standing need by conventioners and other visitors," said Andrew J. Mooney, commissioner of the Department of Planning and Development, which administers the City's TIF program. "In addition to improving the competitiveness of the City as a business destination, the hotel will generate new taxes and jobs while supporting the area's planned revitalization as a mixed-use entertainment district."

The hotel will be owned by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) and managed by a private hotel operator. MPEA, which owns and operates McCormick Place and Navy Pier, is in the process of acquiring the site. The adjacent American Book Company building, a designated City landmark at 320 E. Cermak, is planned to be incorporated into the hotel complex.

A headquarters hotel is part of MPEA's "Elevate Chicago" expansion initiative, which includes a 10,000-seat events center planned for the northwest corner of Cermak and Prairie and a smaller hotel planned for the southeast corner of Cermak and Michigan Avenue. Twenty five hundred permanent jobs are projected to be created through the Elevate Chicago plan.

The TIF assistance, if approved, will partly reimburse MPEA for acquisition and TIF-eligible construction expenses involving the hotel complex exclusively. Additional financing will come from MPEA revenue bonds. Construction could begin in late 2014.

With nearly 9.9 million room nights booked in Chicago last year, hotel occupancy in 2013 was the highest ever at more than 75 percent, according to recently released visitor statistics by Choose Chicago, the City's official marketing organization.

# # #

### **Land Transfer Proposed For New Near South Athletic Field**

A land transfer proposed to City Council today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel would support the development of a \$5.6 million athletic field on the Near South Side for use by Jones College Preparatory High School and area residents.

Under the proposal, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) would provide approximately 3.5 acres of land near 24<sup>th</sup> and Federal streets to Chicago Public Schools (CPS) for the development of the field and running track. The site was previously occupied by the CHA's recently demolished Harold Ickes Homes. The remainder of the 7.5-acre Ickes site is being planned for a mix of public, affordable, and market rate housing.

In exchange for the Ickes land, CHA would receive 9.8 acres of City- and CPS-owned land surrounding the former Near North High School at 1450 N. Larabee St., which the CHA would use for the ongoing, mixed-income redevelopment of the Cabrini Green public housing complex.

Jones, occupying a half city block at 606 S. State St., has no outdoor athletic facility. Construction of the field would be supported by \$4.3 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) approved by City Council in March 2013. The \$1.3 million balance would be paid for by CPS.

Design and construction of the field would be managed by the Public Building Commission.

# # #

### **TIF Proposed for New Annex at North Side Elementary School**

A financial proposal introduced to City Council today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Alderman Pawar would allocate \$16.5 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the construction of an addition to John C. Coonley Elementary School in North Center.

The three-story, 34,000-square-foot annex at 4046 N. Leavitt St is being planned to include 12 classrooms, a cafeteria, and kitchen. The existing cafeteria and kitchen at the Chicago Public School facility would be converted to classrooms upon the annex's completion.

Total project cost is estimated at \$16.6 million. The \$100,000 balance would be paid for by the Chicago Board of Education.

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## **Vacant Building Rehab Program Proposed For Northwest Side**

A City financing program that helps restore vacant and foreclosed apartment buildings would be expanded in a portion of Humboldt Park through a proposal submitted to City Council today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The Multi-Family TIF Purchase-Rehab program, which provides grants to help private developers purchase and rehabilitate vacant and foreclosed rental buildings, would be made available within the Division/Homan Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district.

Grant amounts are determined by the percentage of apartments that are leased at affordable levels to income-qualified tenants over a 15-year period. Minimum building size is six units and maximum grant amounts are up to 50 percent of a project's total cost.

The program would be managed by Community Investment Corp., a Chicago-based lender specializing in multi-family rehabilitation financing.

The Division/Homan TIF district is generally bounded by North, California, Walton and Hamlin avenues.

The program is already active within the Ogden/Pulaski, Chicago/Central Park, and Humboldt Park TIF districts.

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