

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Intergovernmental Agreement Will Support Infrastructure Work  
at Illinois International Port District**

The Great Lakes' largest port will make two long-needed infrastructure upgrades through financial assistance approved by City Council today.

The Illinois International Port District (IIPD) will complete \$16.7 million in rail and roadway improvements to its facilities along the Calumet River through \$3.48 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) from the Lake Calumet TIF District.

The intergovernmental agreement will help the IIPD rebuild 1.1 miles of railroad tracks and private roadways that are used to receive, transfer and ship raw materials like steel, aluminum, grain, sugar, and wood. Located near 130th Street and Stony Island Avenue, the deteriorated roads and railways currently in use are more than 20 years old, hampering port operations and causing shipping delays.

"This capital improvement will increase efficiencies and allow current tenants to grow while attracting new tenants to the port," said IIPD Executive Director Clayton Harris III. "It will help us fulfill our mission as an economic engine for the region, state, nation, and beyond."

The project will be completed in two phases, with the \$13.2 million balance of funding coming from multiple Cook County and State of Illinois sources. The rail portion is planned to be completed by the end of this year and the road portion in 2023. Both phases are located within the Port of Chicago, which contains multiple facilities operated by the IIPD.

The work is anticipated to help retain 120 jobs and create 60 jobs among port-related businesses. More than 19 million tons of waterborne cargo moves through the Port of Chicago each year, the most of any port on the Great Lakes, according to the IIPD. The port district was established by the Illinois General Assembly in 1951 in anticipation of the 1959 opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, which enabled ocean-going vessels from the Atlantic Ocean to enter the Great Lakes. The Port District's nine-member board consists of five members appointed by the mayor of Chicago and four members appointed by the governor of Illinois.

The 12,000-acre Lake Calumet Industrial TIF District is the largest TIF district in the city by area and primarily located within the South Deering community area. Created in 2000, the TIF district has helped fund site prep work for the Ford Supplier Park on Torrence Avenue, infrastructure repairs to the 130th Street bridge, and site prep work for the Method soap plant on 111th Street,

among other improvements. The proposed assistance on behalf of the Port District will be the first use of TIF for the Port of Chicago.

Details about additional TIF-financed projects is available on the City's interactive TIF portal.

# # #

### **City Assistance Approved for Park and School Improvements**

Two South Side parks and a North Side school will be improved through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance approved by City Council today,

Rogers Elementary School, at 7345 N. Washtenaw Avenue in Rogers Park, will construct an annex to relieve student overcrowding through \$1.05 million in TIF assistance from the Touhy/Western TIF district. The \$20 million Chicago Public Schools project is planned to include a new lunchroom, classrooms, specialty spaces, an exterior playlot, and an improved parking area. The balance of project funding will be provided by CPS. The TIF assistance will enable CPS to allocate resources for capital improvement needs at other schools, including turf replacement and flood control projects at Boone and Stone elementary schools. Construction could be completed by fall 2020.

McInerney Park, at 4452 S. Emerald Avenue in New City, will have its playground replaced and green spaces improved through \$552,000 in assistance from the 47th/Halsted TIF district. The Chicago Park District project, which will be completely funded by TIF, also includes new benches, paving, lighting and drinking fountains for park patrons. Construction could be completed by spring 2020.

Bosley Park, at 3044 S. Bonfield St. in Bridgeport, will have its playground and spray pool replaced and its soccer field and basketball court resurfaced through \$1.69 million in assistance from the 35th/Halsted TIF district. The Chicago Park District project will be entirely funded by TIF. Construction could be completed by spring 2020.

Details about TIF district spending and projects are available on the City's interactive TIF portal.

# # #

### **Landmark District Designation Approved for Boystown's Legacy Walk**

Lakeview's half-mile Rainbow Pylons and Legacy Walk were approved as an official City of Chicago Landmark District by City Council today.

Characterized by a series of 25-foot-tall rainbow pylons on Halsted Street between Melrose Street and Bradley Place, the Legacy Walk honors LGBTQ figures throughout history and represents the world's only outdoor LGBTQ museum.

In 1998, the City of Chicago constructed the 20 Rainbow Pylons as the first permanent, municipal streetscape that celebrates the unique cultural and historical contributions of the LGBTQ community. Forty plaques were added starting in 2012 to commemorate prominent LGBTQ figures, including Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, British mathematician Alan Turing, and U.S. astronaut Sally Ride.

The Landmarks Commission issued a final recommendation to City Council in favor of the designation on May 2.

# # #

**Property Tax Incentives Will Support Industrial, Commercial Redevelopment Projects Citywide**

Property tax incentives approved today by City Council will support commercial and industrial redevelopment projects on the Southwest side.

**WRK IN PGRSS LLC**, 1725-41 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St.

A Class 7(c) property tax incentive will support the \$2.4 million rehabilitation and acquisition of a 15,300-square-foot industrial building on the Lower West Side by Wrk In Pgrss LLC on behalf of Gertrude Inc., which plans to use the space for a marketing business. The project, which includes roof repairs, tuckpointing, and upgrades to HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and fire safety systems, will create six new jobs and retain 12 permanent jobs. Total tax savings over the five-year incentive period are estimated at \$548,000.

The Class 7(c) incentive reduces property tax assessment levels on qualified commercial properties for five years.

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