



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 25, 2014

**CONTACT:**

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

Department Planning and Development (DPD)  
(312) 744-9267

**TIF Would Support Improvements to Swedish Covenant Hospital**

Emergency room upgrades and a new women's health center at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Lincoln Square would be supported with \$4.6 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) under a proposal introduced today to City Council by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

"We want to do all that we can to ensure that all of Chicago's residents have access to quality health care," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "In modernizing and expanding access to these quality health care services, Swedish Covenant is investing in the lives of people in the community."

The \$10.4 million in emergency room improvements would involve 14,000 square feet of space in the hospital's East Wing Building at 2739 W. Foster Ave. The work would include upgrades to 27 trauma and examinations rooms, the pharmacy, nurse's station, waiting area, and mechanical systems. Work would be completed by spring 2016.

The \$8 million Mayora Rosenberg Women's Health Center would be constructed inside the hospital's Galter Medical Pavilion at 5140 N. California Ave. The 16,800-square-foot build-out would provide health-related services and resources for women. The facility would offer women-only patient areas, an all-female staff, and translation services in more than 180 languages. Already underway, the project is expected to be completed later this year.

More than 200 temporary construction jobs are projected to be generated by the \$18.4 million project, along with 30 permanent jobs, including doctors, nurses and technicians.

Founded in 1886, Swedish Covenant Hospital is a comprehensive healthcare facility that serves Chicago's North Side.

###

**Park Improvement, Community Garden Proposed for West and South Sides**

Financial measures introduced today to City Council by Mayor Rahm Emanuel would enable upgrades to a West Side park and the construction of a new South Side community garden.

*Garfield Park, 100 N. Central Park Ave.*

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) in the amount of \$5.5 million would reimburse the Chicago Park District for improvements to Garfield Park's conservatory and field house in the East Garfield Park community.

\$3 million in TIF would be used to replace glass-paned roof panels that were destroyed on the conservatory during a 2011 hailstorm. The \$15 million restoration project also includes repairs to the facility's foundation, vents, and drainage systems. The remainder of the project's cost is being funded by the Chicago Park District.

\$2.5 million in TIF would be used to renovate Garfield Park's golden-domed field house, a City of Chicago landmark. Enhancements to the two-story, Spanish Revival-style structure would include the restoration of its distinctive dome and vaulted veranda. The balance of the \$3.35 million project would be funded by the Park District.

Originally known as Central Park, the 184-acre site was renamed in 1881 in honor of slain President James A. Garfield.

*71st & Crandon Organic Garden, 2301-07 E. 71st St.*

A vacant, City-owned lot in South Shore would be redeveloped as the 71st & Crandon Organic Garden through a proposed sale to the NeighborSpace land trust, which would own and insure the property for use by community residents. Proposed sale price is \$1.

"I am pleased to continue the City's partnership with NeighborSpace. The work by NeighborSpace empowers City residents to enjoy our City's beauty in their own back yards and allows us to expand our network of community gardens," said Mayor Emanuel.

The 7,000-square-foot garden would be managed by a local garden association and block club. Site preparation and development would be financed with \$200,000 in 5th Ward Aldermanic funds.

# # #

### **Vacant City Lot to be used as Bocce Ball Court**

The Emanuel Administration has introduced an ordinance which would authorize the execution of a new City as Landlord lease agreement between the City and the Wicker Park Bocce Club, LLC. The lease would authorize the Wicker Park Bocce Club, LLC's access to a vacant City-owned lot located at 2100 South Halsted Street. The Wicker Park Bocce Club, LLC would use the property as a bocce ball court which would be available to area residents.

"With the use of this vacant lot in Wicker Park, residents and visitors will be able to enjoy this space and participate in a fun activity that promotes an active lifestyle at no cost to the City of Chicago," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The property located at 2100 South Halsted Street is a vacant City-owned lot of approximately 2,750 square feet. Because of its small size, the property has no present municipal use. This proposed use of City property will allow area residents to participate in a healthy activity at no cost to the City.

The Wicker Park Bocce Club, LLC was established to promote public bocce ball participation in Chicago.

The proposed lease would provide the Wicker Park Bocce Club, LLC with access to the 2100 South Halsted Street property through December 31, 2016. The rent is \$1.00 for the term of the lease. The organization would be responsible for all maintenance, security, and custodial services, for the property. Either party may cancel the agreement at any time with 30 days' written notice.

###

### **NeighborSpace to use City-Owned Land as Community Garden in Albany Park Neighborhood**

The Emanuel administration has introduced an ordinance which would authorize the execution of a lease agreement with NeighborSpace. The lease would govern access to City-owned vacant land located at 2902-54 West Lawrence Avenue for use as a community garden. The property is comprised of approximately 71,800 square feet of vacant land.

NeighborSpace was established in 1996 as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation to expand communal gardens in Chicago. NeighborSpace presently operates 80 communal gardens in 31 wards throughout Chicago. NeighborSpace assists residents by providing the support and expertise needed to expand communal gardening throughout the City.

"I am pleased to continue the City's partnership with NeighborSpace. The work by NeighborSpace empowers City residents to enjoy our City's beauty in their own back yards and allows us to expand our network of community gardens," Mayor Emanuel said.

Under the terms of the agreement, NeighborSpace would be responsible for maintenance, security and custodial services. The City will not have any responsibilities relative to the proposed use. NeighborSpace will offer tools, classes, special events, and community programs to engage local schools and organizations. NeighborSpace will share the harvest from the site with local social services agencies and area food pantries. The property located at 2902-54 West Lawrence Avenue has no present municipal use.

The Lease would run through December 31, 2019 but may be canceled at any time with 60 days' written notice.

###

### **City-Owned Vacant Land To Be Used As Urban Education Farm**

The Emanuel administration has introduced an ordinance which would authorize the execution of a lease agreement with Sweet Water Foundation. The lease governs access to city-owned vacant land located at 5700 South Lafayette Avenue for use as an urban education farm.

"Every Chicagoan should have access to healthy food. Too many of our citizens feel the consequences of poor nutrition on a daily basis because fresh produce is not available in their neighborhood. The Sweet Water Foundation works not only to bring locally grown fruits and

vegetables to the tables of residents, but also to teach the skills to grow those fruits and vegetables in their own backyards,” said Mayor Emanuel.

Sweet Water Foundation is an education-based entity which combines mathematics, engineering, architecture and technology with food production initiatives to transform blighted areas and underutilized properties into viable sources of local food production. Under the terms of the lease, Sweet Water Foundation would be responsible for maintenance, security, and payment of any utilities. The City will not have any responsibilities relative to the proposed use. The property located at 5700 South Lafayette Avenue has no present municipal use.

The Lease would expire on December 31, 2019 but may be canceled at any time with 60 day’s written notice.

###

### **CITY SEEKS TO ACQUIRE LAND TO BUILD 43<sup>RD</sup> STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER LAKE SHORE DRIVE**

Mayor Rahm Emanuel introduced a plan to City Council today to acquire a parcel of land to complete the footprint for a new pedestrian bridge at 43<sup>rd</sup> Street over Lake Shore Drive, which would replace a 75-year-old dilapidated structure.

“The new crossing at 43<sup>rd</sup> Street will provide a safe and ADA-accessible pedestrian crossing over Lake Shore Drive linking a new neighborhood park on the west side to the lakefront on the east,” Mayor Emanuel said. “This is an important project in our Building a New Chicago infrastructure investment program that will improve the pedestrian connections for the North Kenwood–Oakland neighborhood.”

The Chicago Department of Transportation is planning to demolish and replace the current bridge with a new, safe and ADA-accessible pedestrian crossing over Lake Shore Drive, Metra and Canadian National Railroad.

Adjacent to the existing pedestrian bridge is a church property located at 1163 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, which must be acquired by the City in order to assemble the land for the project. The plan introduced to Council seeks the authority to acquire the property.

The new \$22 million bridge is currently in design, and is currently planned to be constructed in 2015 and opened in 2016.

###