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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES OVER \$1 MILLION IN FUNDING ALLOWING NEXT STEP IN
ALBANY PARK STORMWATER DIVERSION TUNNEL PROJECT**

City Council today approved \$1.17 million in funds enabling an extensive tunnel project in Albany Park to move forward. The Albany Park Stormwater Diversion Tunnel, a below-ground construction effort will dramatically reduce the potential for flooding on the city's northwest side.

"From the time I was a Congressman to my time as Mayor, I have seen the Albany Park community deal with great uncertainty as a result of extreme storms," said Mayor Emanuel. "The construction of this tunnel will dramatically reduce flooding in this community and ensure that our residents and businesses don't need to worry about dealing with storm damage and its consequences. This is an innovative project that will bring much needed relief to the community."

The proposed tunnel-design would be an 18-foot diameter diversion tunnel which would divert the excess flow from a storm through an underground tunnel, bypassing the Albany Park neighborhood. The stormwater would flow into the North Shore Channel. The tunnel would extend east under Foster Avenue for a distance of about one mile, from Eugene Park to the North Shore Channel. During normal weather conditions, the River would flow as it normally does.

The tunnel is a joint project between the City of Chicago and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), and is expected to cost between \$45 and \$55 million. The final determination of cost will be made at the conclusion of the design phase. The City of Chicago and the MWRD have already committed a total of \$40 million to the project.

The North Branch of the Chicago River drains into the North Shore Channel at the east end of the Albany Park neighborhood. Albany Park is a low-lying neighborhood that is especially prone to flooding, and faced severe flooding this summer and in September of 2008.

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