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CITY OF CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY ANNOUNCE $11 MILLION IN IDENTIFIED SAVINGS FOR 2011

First quarter report from City-County collaboration highlights savings, additional areas of cooperation

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle today highlighted the successful first three months of city-county collaboration, and announced that the task force has identified $11 million in savings.

“We are pursuing every option to promote good government and provide better services for taxpayers, which will result in $11 million in savings of taxpayer dollars for 2012,” said Mayor Emanuel. “We’re not going to stop there, and will continue to look for opportunities to provide better, more efficient services to our residents.”

The savings that have been identified are for 2012, and will include a $4 million savings in custodial costs, $1 million in facilities maintenance, $1.1 million in IT support services, and $2.9 million in procurement.

“This committee is focused on finding areas of collaboration,” said President Preckwinkle. “This means not only looking for additional savings for taxpayers, but also finding other areas for cooperation to improve services for residents.”

To that end, the committee has added a twentieth area of collaboration to the 19 areas that were originally agreed upon: Anti-Violence Strategies and Community Stabilization.

The City and County have also focused heavily on increased collaboration in the area of homeland security.
Undertaking a goal-oriented, strategic approach, the City and the County are enhancing the safety and security of our Urban Area by developing a shared vision of preparedness. Through coordinating with respect to goals and objectives, planning joint training and exercises and leveraging efficiencies with respect to developing joint-procurement policies, Cook County and the City of Chicago have undertaken unprecedented levels of cooperation and coordination with respect to developing a homeland security strategy.

This new approach to enhancing the ability of our first responders within the City of Chicago and throughout Cook County to prepare for, prevent against, respond to and recover from any incident - whether man made or natural - was recently recognized by the federal government in their grant of over $54 million to continue our domestic preparedness efforts.

The city-county collaboration expects to bring savings of $66 million - $140 million by 2014. The first quarter report is available online at cityofchicago.org and at cookcountyil.gov.

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