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MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES \$7 MILLION IN TIF APPROVED FOR TAYLOR STREET LIBRARY-HOUSING PROJECT

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today announced a Chicago Public Library (CPL) branch will anchor the base of a new mixed-income apartment building on the Near West Side through \$7 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance approved today by City Council.

Part of Mayor Emanuel's initiative to build three innovative buildings containing branch libraries and affordable homes across the City, the seven-story complex at 1328-50 W. Taylor St. will include a 16,000-square-foot branch on the ground floor and 73 units above; half for Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) tenants, 40 percent as affordable and 10 percent at market rates.

“Chicago is one of the first cities to use a partnership between housing and libraries to benefit and beautify our neighborhoods,” Mayor Emanuel said. “This model will create spaces everyone can enjoy, and I hope this will be the next great civic projects here in Chicago.”

Being developed on CHA land by Related Midwest, the \$36 million project will bring active, people-oriented uses to an area that's currently under-served by neighborhood amenities.

The project architect, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, was selected through a design contest earlier this year. The building will be primarily finished with an opaque insulated panel system with aluminum and glass window assemblies. Thirty five parking spaces will be available behind the building for tenants and library patrons.

This project is one of three being developed under an innovative partnership with CHA and CPL that will also bring the housing and branch libraries to the Irving Park and West Ridge communities.

The first floor of the project will contain the new approximately 16,000-square-foot Taylor Street Library. The library will include an early learning area for children, a YOUmedia Digital Lab and community meeting and study rooms.

The developments are designed to revitalize vacant land in each neighborhood by providing affordable housing attached to a community amenity. The residential portion of each facility will create mixed-income housing options for the community, while the branch library will offer reading resources and programs for area children, families and building residents. Traditional library programs, such as homework assistance for school-age children, book clubs for seniors and intergenerational educational and cultural programming will also be available.

The TIF assistance and zoning for the project were approved last month by the Community Development Commission and Chicago Plan Commission, respectively.

The other mixed-use projects being developed through the initiative include the new Independence Apartments and CPL Branch Library at 4022 N. Elston Ave. and the new Northtown Apartments and CPL Branch Library at 6800 N. Western Ave.

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