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MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL TO BUILD JOINT PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CAMPUS IN WEST GARFIELD PARK

New state-of-the-art facility to strengthen training for first responders, bring additional jobs and economic development to West Garfield Park

City Council today took a major step towards the development of a new, state-of-the-art Joint Public Safety Training Academy by approving an ordinance authorizing the city into a contract with AECOM for the design, construction and turn-key delivery of the facility as part of the city's continued efforts to provide the best tools, technology, and training for its first responders while investing in the West Garfield Park community.

"Today's vote marks a step towards building a world-class education and training center for the city's first responders who work every day to ensure the safety of the residents of Chicago," said Mayor Emanuel. "This is a critical milestone in Chicago's public safety strategy, one that marks a transformative investment in the city's West Side that will continue to serve its residents for years to come."

Additionally, City Council passed a separate ordinance today approving land-use changes related to the 30-acre campus located at 4301 W. Chicago Avenue in West Garfield Park. Construction for the site is planned to begin in 2020 and continue for approximately 18 months, bringing more than 300 construction jobs to the area.

As part of the neighborhood-focused package for the facility, two African-American owned restaurants, Peach's and Culver's, will open franchises on the site for the 1,500 first responders that will be in the area each day once the academy is open. Peach's will feature a training center for food and restaurant workers, offering on-the-job coaching, training employees on customer service, bartending, and proper food handling and preparation in an effort to expand their job experiences and skills for future careers.

City Council's approval caps years of work that started in 2017, when the city began working with the Chicago Infrastructure Trust (CIT) to select a developer ideally suited to design, build and finance the project. The multi-stage procurement and RFP evaluation process determined that the AECOM team was the most qualified to lead a collaborative design process with City stakeholders, neighborhood residents and first responders in the development of the Joint Public Safety Training Campus.

The AECOM team includes 14 sub-consultants, including nine registered as MBEs and three registered as a WBEs. The team also includes police and fire subject matter experts to provide advice on the tactical design and interior architecture. Community outreach, workforce development, and diversity will be key pillars throughout the design and construction process.

Early collaborative design efforts, led by the AECOM design team, were based on conversations, site visits and interviews with CPD, CFD, and other experts and concluded the JPSTC should be primarily dedicated to providing hands-on scenario-based training. The historically located R.J. Quinn Fire Building will be maintained for fire prevention inspectors, fire prevention public education, and CFD support services. The current Police Academy will continue to be utilized for classroom instruction, physical fitness, and other in-service technical training.

The new Joint Public Safety Training Academy will deepen and strengthen the training capabilities of both new and current police officers, firefighters and paramedics, allowing for comprehensive cross-training among departments. This new capacity will support first responders in receiving specialized scenario-based training that emphasizes hands-on tactical practice in real-world situations and improve interagency collaboration in emergency response.

The recent consent decree agreement lays out a series of comprehensive and required reforms to CPD training, including recruit, in-service, and pre-service promotion training. The Chicago Police Department is required to incorporate active-learning, problem-solving, scenario-based training, and other adult learning techniques into their training curriculum. The City has committed to providing appropriate training facilities that offer adequate access to safe and effective training.

These plans build on the Mayor's commitment to providing first responders with best-in-class tools, tactics, and training needed to successfully carry out their challenging work. CPD has already moved forward with revamping its training curriculum and is developing a broader set of training courses that address all aspects of duties performed by officers and their supervisors – much of this new training will be taught and practiced at these new facilities. Last year, CPD began the phased roll-out of new in-service training for the first time in the Department's history, which will include a required 40-hours of mandatory training for every police officer by 2021.

The estimated cost for the Public Safety Training Academy is \$85 million. At least \$20 million of the sale of city-owned land at 1685 N. Throop St. will go towards the design and construction of the facility. An additional \$65 million will be funded through the \$850 million in issued general obligation bonds that were approved by City Council today.

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