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## **McCORMICK PLACE® UNVEILS NEW HIGH-TECH SECURITY CENTER**

### **Mayor Daley Praises Facility's Capabilities to Protect "City Within a City"**

For Immediate Release

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CHICAGO - Mayor Richard M. Daley and officials with the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) have unveiled the McCormick Place Convention Center's new state-of-the-art Command Center, which will be linked to hundreds of surveillance cameras as well as the City's 911 Center.

"We're doing for McCormick Place what we're doing for the rest of Chicago: using advanced technology to protect the safety of the public and provide a rapid and precise response to any emergency that might arise," Daley said at a news conference at the center.

The Command Center was constructed as part of the McCormick Place West project, which is adding a fourth building to the lakefront convention center. Set to open this summer, McCormick Place West will have 470,000 square feet of exhibit space and 250,000 square feet of meeting space, including a 100,000-square-foot ballroom.

After the West Building opens, surveillance cameras monitoring the McCormick Place North, South, West and Lakeside Center buildings, as well as the Hyatt Regency® McCormick Place Hotel, will feed their signals directly into the Command Center.

The Command Center also has an incident management system that uses alarms and colored lights to alert operators to problems or emergencies. This system automatically triggers cameras to turn and focus on areas of interest.

Any camera signal from McCormick Place can also be sent to the City's Emergency Communications Center, 1411 W. Madison St., where operators can monitor any emergency response, provide information to first responders and notify other City departments, if necessary. The center also has video-conferencing capability.

This center has five permanent work stations, with the capability to add more as the need arises.

"We consider this to be the finest security command center of any convention center in the country," said Juan Ochoa, Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA), which owns and operates McCormick Place. "This center complements the city's OEMC operations and Homeland Security initiatives and allows us to better serve and protect a facility that Mayor Daley has called, 'a city with a city'."

McCormick Place attracts almost 3 million visitors a year, a population equal to the city of Chicago.

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