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**MAYOR EMANUEL AND ALDERMAN LAURINO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION  
OF ALBANY PARK STORM WATER DIVERSION TUNNEL**

*IGA Between CDOT and MWRD Will Allow For Sharing of Construction Costs*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Alderman Marge Laurino today introduced an ordinance which would authorize the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Metropolitan Water and Reclamation District (MWRD) to share the local cost of the construction of a Storm Water Diversion Tunnel to relieve the threat of catastrophic flooding.

"Albany Park has been devastated by severe flooding twice in recent years, and my administration is committed to tackling the problem so residents don't have to live in fear every time heavy downpours are forecasted," said Mayor Emanuel. "This is a badly needed investment that will give Albany Park residents peace of mind and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century infrastructure everyone in the City of Chicago deserves."

Since 2008, Albany Park has experienced two major floods that have affected hundreds of homes in the northwest side community along the North Branch of the Chicago River. After the last round of serious flooding in April 2013, Mayor Emanuel pledged the city would address the problem in a comprehensive way and directed CDOT to move forward with design and engineering of a drainage tunnel.

"The Albany Park storm water tunnel a high priority project for CDOT and we are pushing forward aggressively to complete they design of the tunnel and start construction as quickly as possible, " said CDOT Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld.

CDOT and MWRD hosted two community meetings in Albany Park on April 2 at the request of Alderman Margaret Laurino, at which residents voiced strong support for the project.

"Many hardworking residents of Albany Park have had their lives turned upside down by severe flooding, said Alderman Laurino. "The construction of the storm water diversion tunnel will give them a chance to achieve the comfort in their own homes that all Chicagoans should be afforded."

The 18-foot diameter tunnel would divert a flow of 2,300 cubic feet of water per second to bypass Albany Park and empty into the North Shore Channel. The tunnel is expected to cost between \$45 and \$55 million, with the final determination of cost to be made after the design is completed and the project goes out for bids later this spring. The City of Chicago and MWRD have committed \$40 million to the project, and a new federal Community Development Block Grant will also provide funding.

CDOT expects to seek bids once the design is complete and to start the project in late summer, with the tunnel to be operational by the end of 2017.

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