

Martin Nesbitt
Chairperson

Board of Commissioners

Hallie Amey

Dr. Mildred Harris

Michael Ivers

Bridget O'Keefe

Carlos Ponce

Sandra Young

Lewis A. Jordan

Chief Executive Officer

Scott W. Ammarell

General Counsel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2009

Press Contacts: Matthew Aguilar, CHA Office of Communications: (312) 935-2646; maguilar@thecha.org; Bryant Payne, (312) 822-0505: bryant@mkepr.com

CHA announces new camera initiative

Effort will ensure the safety and well-being of residents of all ages

In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of its residents, the Chicago Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will consider a \$23 million camera initiative Wednesday that would see approximately 3,000 cameras installed at all of the Authority's senior and family developments, representing nearly 16,000 apartments.

Of the \$23 million – which was made available by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - \$19 million will be used for the family development installation, and \$2.8 million for senior development installation. The senior buildings had new systems installed recently; the additional dollars will allow for upgrades to those systems. Siemens Technologies, an international technology leader, was awarded the contract.

Thirty Section 3 jobs will be made available as a result of the camera initiative, including fire technician, security, and sales positions.

The remainder of the stimulus funds awarded to the CHA to date – roughly \$143 million – will be used to rehabilitate 900 units of public housing and to proceed with needed demolitions of non-viable buildings to improve the safety of the surrounding communities.

Lewis A. Jordan, CEO of the CHA, welcomed the stimulus funds.

“When they asked for shovel-ready projects, we were there – with long-delayed initiatives that were good ideas, but lacked funding,” he said. “The ARRA dollars will mean greater safety and security for residents and more jobs for Chicago. That’s a good combination.”

####