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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Seward Park Takes First Windy City Sluggers Softball Championship Title**

*Teens Learn Lessons of Sportsmanship, Leadership and Teamwork in Inaugural  
Season*

Chicago (Aug. 9, 2010) - Attention: Chicago White Sox and Cubs. The Chicago Housing Authority is grooming the next generation of baseball talent with its first ever youth softball league, which held the championship game of its inaugural season Thursday, Aug. 5.

Since mid-summer, eight city teams, made up of CHA 13- to 15-year-old boys and girls, competed for a spot in the Windy City Sluggers League playoffs. Qualifying from the South Division were teams from Carver Park and Taylor Park, while Seward Park and Altgeld Park represented the North Division.

The evening kicked off with Carver handily defeating Altgeld in a playoff game that ended 10-5, while Seward eked by Taylor with a walk-off homerun in the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning. The final score was 9-8.

Under the glow of the sun setting and field lights coming on, Lewis Jordan, CHA CEO, and Carlos Ponce, CHA Board Commissioner, delivered pep talks to both groups of finalists before Jordan threw out the opening pitch of the championship game.

“We all know only one team can get first place,” Jordan told players. “But even if you don’t win the championship, I hope you walk off the field with your heads held high – having learned something about sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork.”

In the end, Seward emerged victorious against Carver with a final score of 10-5 in the championship game. Altgeld and Taylor placed third and fourth, respectively in a consolation match.

Sponsored by CHA, Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) and the Chicago Park District, the eight co-ed teams were coached by park district staff and CHA residents.

All players received a mini-trophy for making it to the playoffs and a summer full of memories playing softball in the park. CHA, CAPS and the Chicago Park District hope to bring back the league next year after the success of the 2010 opening season.

In addition to the Windy City Sluggers League, CHA in partnership with the City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, various companies and philanthropies has provided more than 5,000 employment, recreational and educational opportunities for young people this summer.

### **Links to Photos with Suggested Captions**

[http://www.thecha.org/filebin/pdf/PressReleases/First\\_Pitch.JPG](http://www.thecha.org/filebin/pdf/PressReleases/First_Pitch.JPG)

**Suggested Caption:** CHA CEO Lewis Jordan throws out the ceremonial first pitch in the Championship Game.

[http://www.thecha.org/filebin/pdf/PressReleases/At\\_Bat.JPG](http://www.thecha.org/filebin/pdf/PressReleases/At_Bat.JPG)

**Suggested Caption:** A Carver Park player takes her stance at the bat in a Playoff Game against Altgeld Park.

[http://www.thecha.org/filebin/pdf/PressReleases/Fans\\_on\\_Bench.JPG](http://www.thecha.org/filebin/pdf/PressReleases/Fans_on_Bench.JPG)

**Suggested Caption:** Carver fans join the team on the bench to cheer friends and family on.

[http://www.thecha.org/filebin/pdf/PressReleases/Seward\\_Champs.JPG](http://www.thecha.org/filebin/pdf/PressReleases/Seward_Champs.JPG)

**Suggested Caption:** Team Seward Park celebrates after winning the first-ever Windy City Sluggers League Championship.

[http://www.thecha.org/filebin/pdf/PressReleases/Champs\\_Runners\\_Up.JPG](http://www.thecha.org/filebin/pdf/PressReleases/Champs_Runners_Up.JPG)

**Suggested Caption:** Lewis Jordan, CHA CEO, and Carlos Ponce, CHA Commissioner, pose with captains from Seward Park and Carver Park, which placed first and second overall, respectively.

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