



# CITY OF CHICAGO HEIGHTS

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DAVID A. GONZALEZ

For Immediate Release

## **New Chicago Heights-Hammond Deal Opens Spigot to 10 Million Extra Gallons of Lake Water**

(Chicago Heights, IL) – A newly inked agreement between the City of Chicago Heights and the City of Hammond, Indiana will open the tap to an additional 10 million gallons of Lake Michigan water to be delivered daily to communities in the south suburbs.

The 25-year deal, approved by the Chicago Heights City Council at its September 5 council meeting, will position Chicago Heights as a major regional water supplier able to deliver an additional five million gallons of Lake water to nearby towns starting immediately. An additional five million daily gallons would be made available once Hammond develops additional infrastructure, such as a new above-ground storage tank and transmission lines. The new Lake water supply would be offered at “extremely competitive rates,” according Chicago Heights Mayor David Gonzalez, who called the agreement “historic.”

“The new, 25-year agreement with Hammond is a historic deal because it will increase the supply of Lake water to more south suburban communities at extremely competitive rates,” said Gonzalez. “Beyond the competitive rates, more south suburban residents will have access to better quality, fresh Lake water.”

Hammond’s mayor also hailed the agreement.

“I want to congratulate and thank Chicago Heights Mayor David Gonzalez for working with the City of Hammond in forming this new 25-year agreement that builds upon our cities’ decades’ long partnership. The communities in the south suburbs that will benefit from this agreement that allows additional connections to Hammond’s water supply will mean millions of dollars in savings for them and their residents. Giving them a choice in water supply is a great option for them and their supplier, Chicago Heights,” said Mayor Thomas McDermott, Jr.

The proposed rate of the water to be sold to the City of Chicago Heights would be \$2.05 per one-thousand gallons, according to the agreement.

Gonzalez noted that the 2013 water agreement between Chicago Heights and Hammond for the Indiana community to supply Lake water to the city will remain in force and that the new deal will run concurrently.

The south suburban communities authorized to purchase the new water supply under the Chicago Heights-Hammond agreement are: Homewood, Flossmoor, Olympia Fields, Matteson, Country Club Hills, Hazel Crest, East Hazel Crest, and Sauk Village.