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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Advisory:

**ROSCOE VILLAGE EXPANDS CAMERA PROGRAM;
DECLARES AUGUST 1ST “ANNUAL POLICE APPRECIATION DAY”**

Media Opportunity:

What: Roscoe Village “Annual Police Appreciation Day!”

Who: Volunteers from Roscoe Village will deliver lunch and dinner to 240 Police Officers

Where: 019 District Police Station, 850 West Addison Street

When: Thursday, August 1, 2019

- 80 servings of Lunch at 11 a.m.
- 80 servings of Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
- 40 servings of Dinner at 8:45 p.m.
- 40 servings of Dinner at 10:45 p.m.

Last weekend’s tally of bloodshed again thrusts Chicago into the national limelight for its unbearably high crime rate. In 2019, more than 1,500 Chicagoans have been shot and 296 murdered. Violent crime continues to flourish with armed robberies, assaults and carjackings regularly occurring in even the city’s “safest” neighborhoods. The Chicago Police Department struggles with a chronic shortage of more than 2,000 patrol officers, requiring the city to spend more than \$60 million for overtime in 2018 to “fill the gap,” while 911 emergency response times can still stretch for hours.

Against this backdrop, the rank-and-file of the Chicago Police Department – comprised of men and women of every race, creed, color, and sexual orientation – are asked to do an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous job while (a) working for a second year without a contract with the city, and (b) regularly vilified for political expediency by elected officials and community leaders who fail to hold accountable those who actually commit criminal acts. Their jobs are made exponentially more difficult by the catch-and-release practices of our county judicial system as amply and ably documented by Chicago’s news media.

It is in this difficult environment that the residents and business owners of Roscoe Village are taking action to show their support and gratitude for Officers, and to further assist them in doing their jobs.

This time last year their community group, Roscoe Village Neighbors (RVN) www.RoscoeVillage.org, spent \$40,000 to launch its "Neighborhood on Watch" (NOW) video camera program that installed more than 25 high-definition security cameras and license plate readers in key neighborhood locations. Later this year, RVN will roll-out Phase Two of the program, allowing residents and business owners to enroll to have additional cameras installed on their property. All footage will be uploaded to the Cloud where, if a crime occurs in their self-described "Village Within the City," it can instantly be retrieved and provided to Chicago Police detectives. Over the last 12 months, RVN honored nearly a dozen requests by the Chicago Police Department to retrieve video footage to facilitate criminal investigations.

Concurrent with this expansion, Roscoe Villagers are again taking time to express their appreciation for the men and women of the Chicago Police Department who serve and protect their community. RVN has declared August 1st to be Roscoe Village "Annual Police Appreciation Day!" Working with the 019 District Advisory Council and its chair, Cook County Judge Diann Marsalek, volunteers are delivering lunch and dinner to every Officer in the 019 District Police Station.

RVN President Nina Buik stated, "Roscoe Village has a long history of supporting the men and women of the Chicago Police Department. In the past, RVN helped furnish the exercise equipment for the workout room at the Belmont & Western police station and underwrite the breakfast for District Officers participating in the St. Jude Police Memorial March. We are deeply grateful to the Officers and to their families for the sacrifices they make to keep us safe in our homes and businesses. Expanding the NOW Video Camera Network is one way we can further assist them in their duties. Tomorrow's "Annual Police Appreciation Day!" is a way for all of us in our 'Village Within the City' to say 'Thank you, Officers!'"

Roscoe Village Neighbors Association is a 501(c)(3) working to enhance safety and quality-of-life for the residents and business owners of Roscoe Village, an area bordered by Addison Street on the north, Belmont Avenue on the south, Ravenswood on the east, and the Chicago River on the west. RVN hosts a variety of activities including social events, educational seminars, and political fora. In addition, RVN publishes the *Village View* newsletter and *What's News in Roscoe Village* e-newsletter. To learn more about the NOW Network or RVN, please visit www.roscoevillage.org or email RVN at roscoevillageneighbors@gmail.com.