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## **Village Board agrees to adopt Comprehensive Plan** *Okays pump station for flood mitigation project*

ELMWOOD PARK – The Elmwood Park Village Board has given the approval to a new Comprehensive Plan for the village, an up-to-date document that provides the framework for community development decisions over the next two decades.

"This is a critical first step to insure that the goals and vision of the residents and key stakeholders in Elmwood Park are used to guide decisions about future development or redevelopment of our community," Village President Pete Silvestri said.

Through funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Elmwood Park worked with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to help craft the updated plan. CMAP involved numerous stakeholders through various meetings, interviews, workshops, events and interactive websites. Concerns and priorities that emerged from these meetings helped to shape the plan. It won earlier approval from the Elmwood Park Plan, Zoning and Development Commission (PZD).

The plan encompasses a wide array of interrelated elements, including land use, housing, natural resources, transportation, economic development and implementation. CMAP helped the village address its needs and desires within the scope and framework of regional economic and demographic changes.

The new document will replace the current plan adopted in 1995. Typically, such plans are designed to provide guidance for a community over a 10 to 20 year time period. "This is an important time in the life of Elmwood Park, and this plan will play a vital role in helping us with our land use and development decisions," Silvestri said.

In other action, the Village Board approved the award of a contract to build a new pump station in connection with the Flood Mitigation Project. It's the second of three major contracts that will be approved and implemented this year in connection with the project. The village again attracted a very competitive group of bidders. The apparent low bidder is 10.2% below initial estimates.

This project involves the building of the pump station on the grounds of the Oak Park Country Club. The underground pumps will be used to drain the detention basin that will collect water from the new, separate storm sewers that are being constructed throughout town as part of this project.

The board also approved a special use permit to allow a drive-thru at the new McDonald's restaurant being developed near the corner of Grand and Harlem Avenues. Having a drive-thru was a key component of the redevelopment agreement (RDA) between the village and Gullo Property, LLC. The Grand & Harlem redevelopment plan includes a variety of improvements, including new streetscaping, lighting and a new welcome sign for the village.

The board also accepted a PZD recommendation to allow a variance needed to rebuild a gas station and mini-mart at the corner of Harlem and Diversey Avenues.

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