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CHICAGO METROPOLIS 2020 ADDS NEW STAFF

CHICAGO (July 1, 1999) – Chicago Metropolis 2020 has announced the addition of three new policy staff members to assist the non-profit's efforts to strengthen the economy and improve the quality of life in the six-county region.

"Chicago Metropolis 2020 has generated a great deal of enthusiasm and optimism about its potential to become a catalyst for positive change and a brighter future for the Chicago region," said George A. Ranney, Jr., who is president and CEO of Chicago Metropolis 2020. "Our search for smart, savvy and energetic staff reaped an abundance of qualified candidates and confirmed my belief that we will have much to contribute to the debate over the future direction of this region".

"These new staff members bring a solid understanding of the region and its problems and share a determination to make it a better place to live and work," Ranney said. "I'm confident this start-up staff will not just hit the ground running, but will be running at championship speed."

Chicago Metropolis 2020 is an independent, non-profit organization recently created by The Commercial Club of Chicago. Its mission is to foster collaboration across the region and increase the public's understanding of the challenges ahead in the next century. The group's initial areas of focus include transportation, education, workforce development, early childhood education, health care and the commitment of businesses to consider housing, land use and transportation policies before making investment decisions.

The new staff members include the following:

Theresa E. Mintle has experience in government relations and policy at the local, state and federal levels. Since 1997, she has been Assistant Director of the Office of Governmental Relations at the University of Illinois at Chicago. From 1993 to 1997, she was an assistant to Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley in the Mayor's office of Intergovernmental Affairs and previously was a policy analyst in the City of Chicago's Office of Budget and Management. She also worked on Capital Hill from 1986 to 1989 as a legislative assistant to former U.S. Rep. Marty Russo.

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Mintle was a La Follette Institute Fellow at the University of Wisconsin at Madison where she received a master of public administration degree in 1991. She received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1986.

David S. Parkhurst was a senior policy analyst with the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C. from 1994 to 1998. In that position, he analyzed a variety of emerging issues and proposals before Congress and the federal bureaucracy and how those proposals would impact local communities. He also has a decade of experience as a legislative and policy consultant in Washington, D.C., where his work covered a variety of issues, including community and economic development, transportation, trade and energy.

Parkhurst received a master of public administration degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University in 1990. He received a bachelor's degree in government from Hamilton College in 1985, and he is currently enrolled in the College of Law at DePaul University.

Sara R. Slaughter, a Chicago attorney has helped lead re-engineering efforts in Mayor Richard M. Daley's administration for the past two years. From 1993 to 1997, she was Director of Economic Development Policy for the State of Indiana, where she helped develop the EDGE program of tax credits for new and expanding businesses, and she was Gov. Evan Bayh's executive assistant, overseeing the work of five state agencies. From 1989 to 1992, she was an attorney with the Chicago law firm of Kirkland & Ellis.

Slaughter received a law degree from Indiana University in 1988 and received a bachelor's degree in English literature from Duke University in 1985.

The new staff members will assist with the research, formulation and communication of policy and will work under the direction of Ranney and Frank H. Beal, executive director of Chicago Metropolis 2020. They will also assist the 40-member Executive Council, which is chaired by Andrew J. McKenna, Chairman of Schwarz Paper Company of Morton Grove. The Executive Council includes regional civic, business, non-profit and governmental representation.

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