

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**METROPOLIS PROJECT NAMES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Frank Beal has been named Executive Director and Executive Vice President of Chicago Metropolis 2020, a new civic-led effort to develop broader regional consensus on such issues as education, transportation, tax reform, land use and economic development.

In addition to a distinguished business career, Beal has experience as an urban planner, senior advisor to two Illinois governors, and administrator of a not-for-profit organization. Beal, 59, of Chicago, most recently was President of Ryerson International, Inc., which is the overseas operating arm of Ryerson Tull, Inc. and Inland Steel Industries.

"Frank Beal has had a distinguished career in each of three areas – business, state government, and not for profit service," said George A. Ranney, Jr., who serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Metropolis 2020. "The Metropolis Project will need to work closely with all three sectors to be successful in making the Chicago metropolitan region one of the places in the world where people most want to live and work."

Prior to joining Inland, Beal served as Director of the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources for Governor James Thompson and also as Special Assistant to Thompson. He also served as Deputy Director and Director of Research for the American Planning Association, a nonprofit membership organization of over 20,000 city planners. He was Deputy Director of the Illinois Institute for Environmental Quality for Governor Richard B. Ogilvie. He has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Illinois and a bachelor's degree from Antioch College in 1965.

Ranney added, "I want to pay particular thanks to Ryerson Tull, Inc., which is assisting Metropolis 2020 to get off to an excellent start by enabling Frank to join us as he completes his responsibilities for the company, and also by providing us with office space in downtown Chicago at the Inland Steel Building." Ryerson Tull is the name by which Inland Steel Industries and Ryerson Tull will be known after the two companies are merged today.

"I have been struck by the way in which national governments around the world are struggling to both maintain their autonomy and their independence, but at the same time develop ways to work collaboratively with their neighbors in order to gain the rewards of the growing world economy," Beal said. "The Chicago region must likewise find ways for its various governments to work together effectively. Unless we work together as a region, we risk being bypassed by businesses looking for the best locations for growth, and our quality of life will be diminished."

"Frank understands every policy issue at stake in this critical debate and is the perfect choice," said David Mosena, who is President of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago and serves as a member of the Executive Council for the Metropolis 2020 project. "I say this not only from the point of view of those of us in the civic world but also those of us who've participated in what is required to achieve political change in the Chicago area."

Chicago Metropolis 2020 is a coalition-building initiative launched by the Commercial Club of Chicago to improve the region's economic vitality and the quality of life for all of its residents.