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## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **Business-Sponsored Civic Groups Discuss Future of South Suburbs and the Chicago Region**

### ***Economic and Political Integration of South Suburbs Critical to Entire Region's Future***

TINLEY PARK--Chicago Metropolis 2020, a nonprofit civic organization and the Chicago Southland ALLIANCE (The ALLIANCE), an economic and community development initiative for the south and southwest suburbs of Chicago came together today at the Holiday Inn Convention Center to continue their work of improving the future of the Chicago Region.

In a report released in March entitled, *The Metropolis Plan: Choices for the Chicago Region*, Chicago Metropolis 2020 presents a menu of policy recommendations that would lead to healthier growth for the Chicago region.

In a breakfast discussion and presentation with over 80 representatives from business, civic and governmental organizations throughout the Southland, these leaders discussed how healthier regional growth could specifically benefit the South Suburbs.

Bert Docter, Chairman of The ALLIANCE said "Our partner organizations — South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association, Chicago Southland Development, Inc., Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce and Metro Southwest Alliance —have been working hard with local communities to increase our return on investment by leveraging local resources to bring new dollars to the region. We believe the effort of Chicago Metropolis 2020 to promote healthier regional growth over the next three decades is consistent with and crucial to our own success in this work."

Increasing economic opportunity in the south suburbs was a key topic of discussion during the breakfast. "It is crucial to the success of the entire region that all the parts of the region must have strong economies," said Frank Beal, Chicago Metropolis 2020 Executive Director. Beal also emphasized that the South Suburban region has an abundance of resources, not the least of which is its skilled work force, which is a regional asset.

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Chicago Metropolis 2020 is a nonprofit organization created by The Commercial Club of Chicago in 1999 to address regional challenges ranging from traffic congestion to early childhood education. Chicago Metropolis 2020 has program areas in Early Childhood Education; Justice and Violence; Housing; and Land Use and Transportation.

The Chicago Southland ALLIANCE is an economic and community development initiative for the south and southwest suburbs of Chicago. This cooperative venture between Southland public and private sector representatives works together to improve the environment for business growth and to prepare for future generations.

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