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**OVER 1,000 NEWLY RENOVATED CHA SENIOR UNITS AVAILABLE FOR
OCCUPANCY**

Apartments offer seniors a welcome change of place

Over 1,000 newly rehabilitated senior apartments are available for occupancy, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) announced Saturday at the Major Lawrence Apartments,* 655 W. 65th Street. The renovations are part of an overall effort to provide seniors with the chance to live independently – but never alone.

“We believe that senior citizens deserve to live in safe and peaceful surroundings,” said CHA CEO Terry Peterson. “These units contribute to the City’s effort to provide comfortable, affordable housing to seniors because they deserve the best.”

The more than 1,000 available units are located in 18 of the CHA’s 58 senior buildings and represent locations where the most CHA senior apartments are available for rent. With senior buildings in nearly every city neighborhood, seniors can live close to family, places of worship, transportation and shopping. Rent is based on level of income and does not exceed 30 percent of income.

The renovation work includes everything from new appliances, to new heating and electrical systems to new landscaping. The work is part of the CHA’s 10-year Plan for Transformation, the largest overhaul of public housing in the nation’s history.

All total, the CHA plans to renovate about 9,400 senior units and is approximately 90 percent complete with that effort. But the physical work is just one part of the goal. By partnering with the City’s Department on Aging, other city agencies and groups interested in providing seniors with a wonderful quality of life, residents can enjoy arts and crafts, exercise classes, field trips and life-enrichment programs.

“Each building has its own unique personality making each one vibrant in its own way,” said Donna Dixon, CHA Director of Senior Programs. “We really invite seniors to take a look at the work that’s been done and talk with some residents who can tell you how different things are now.”

New applicants must be at least 62 years old to move in, though individuals are welcome to fill out an application at age 60. Anyone interested in applying for a newly renovated unit can call 312-745-4700 for more information.

***Please see the “Did You Know ...?” sheet located in the press packet.**