



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2012

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Community Garden to be Developed Using City-Owned Vacant Lots

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today introduced an ordinance to enter into a lease agreement with the Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly (CLESE) for use of a city-owned vacant lot located at 2954 West Lawrence Avenue for \$1 per year for use as an urban garden for refugees.

“CLESE is providing training, financial literacy, and other support for these refugees as they transition to life in the country”, said Mayor Emanuel. “In addition, beautifying vacant lots will attract residents and developers to the area and will create new business opportunities”.

The lease agreement provides the Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly to occupy the space for \$1.00 per year. They would be responsible for maintenance and security of the as well as paying for any utilities. The lease expires on December 31, 2015.

CLESE is a non-profit corporation that provides advocacy and education programs on behalf of elderly immigrants with limited English skills. CLESE recently secured a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Refugee Resettlement to assist refugees by offering training and additional sources of food.

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