



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES AGREEMENT ALLOWING LOW-RISK DETAINEES TO  
CONTINUE CLEANING ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL FACILITY**

*Successful Program Extended for Three Years*

The Chicago City Council today approved a three-year agreement recommended by Mayor Rahm Emanuel that allows low-risk detainees from Cook County Jail to continue to clean Animal Care and Control's 54,000 square foot headquarters, which houses more than 500 animals waiting to be reclaimed by owners or adopted, along with medical facilities to provide veterinary care.

"This partnership has proven to be a success, with detainees learning how to handle multiple responsibilities, gaining jobs skills, and allowing Animal Care and Control staff to focus on providing more advanced services to ensure animals receive proper care," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "The facility is fully cleaned every morning, including weekends, holidays, and inclement weather."

The new agreement allows a third correctional officer to be added if needed. The third officer will allow the volunteers to clean more efficiently and perform additional duties including cleaning the perimeter and outdoor dog runs.

The volunteer detainees receive thorough training, learn responsibility, and gain skills they can use with them in the future. Already, 53 certificates have been presented to the detainees for participation in program, which demonstrate they are taking positive steps in their lives.



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As part of the agreement, the City is reimbursing the County for its actual costs to staff the program, which is not to exceed \$323,651.84 annually. The actual cost of the contract is expected to be less, because we do not anticipate needing a third correctional officer every day. This program provides the City significant cost savings and a guarantee of four hours of cleaning every day.

The Cook County Detainee Cleaning Program has been in place since August of 2011.

Animal Care and Control officials are constantly reviewing our protocols to minimize any safety risks. Prior to cleaning, inmates receive training and sign waivers with the understanding that participation is voluntary. Safety gear including clothing and equipment are provided. We have on-going training sessions to ensure adherence to all protocols.

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