



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011

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## **Chicago FOP endorses Gery Chico for mayor**

*FOP president: Chico "by far" best prepared to lead*

(CHICAGO) Chicago's largest police organization, the Fraternal Order of Police Chicago Lodge 7, today endorsed Gery Chico to be the next mayor of Chicago. Standing with Chico at FOP headquarters, police leaders said they chose Chico because he is by far the most qualified candidate to lead Chicago.

"We live in this city, our kids go to these schools, we use our parks and we attend our City Colleges," said FOP president Mark Donahue. "We are supporting Gery Chico because nobody in this race is more qualified to be the next mayor of Chicago. Gery is the best prepared to help police officers keep our citizens safe."

Chico is committed to protecting Chicagoans and will roll out his comprehensive public safety plan in the coming weeks. His plans will include adding 2,000 police officers to our streets, reducing gang and gun-related violence, and making every neighborhood safer and more secure.

"It is an honor to have the support of the people who fight to protect our citizens each and every day," Gery Chico said. "Chicago's police officers are on the front lines, and their service to our city is invaluable. As mayor, I will put the safety of our citizens first and we will not allow our police department to go understaffed moving forward."

Donahue said Chico was selected after the FOP seriously considered all the top candidates. For them, it came down to qualifications and experience.

"Nobody knows Chicago like Gery Chico and nobody understands how to address the challenges that face our city better than Gery Chico," Donahue said. "Chicago is one of the largest cities in the country and we need a mayor who is tested and ready to lead. Gery's track record is one of results, not rhetoric. Time and again, Gery has proven that he knows how to get things done for the City of Chicago."

Chico has a longstanding record of working to make Chicago's neighborhoods safer. As mayoral chief of staff, Chico helped deploy more than 1,000 new officers on the street. Chico also created and implemented Community Policing programs, and helped facilitate the construction of new police facilities that increased police presence in neighborhoods citywide. Chico has been endorsed by several police associations including the Mexican American Police Organization (MAPO), the Latin American Police Association (LAPA), and the Chicago Police Sergeant's Association.

Founded in 1963, the FOP represents more than 11,000 active Chicago police officers and is dedicated to supporting the health of Chicago's law enforcement community.

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