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MEDIA RELEASE

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BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRENGTHENS IN FRANKLIN PARK New Businesses Opening and Investing in Franklin Park

Franklin Park, IL – Despite the recession, new businesses are opening and established businesses are adding jobs and expanding their operations and markets in Franklin Park.

“During these uncertain economic times, creating and retaining jobs for our citizens is our highest priority,” stated Mayor Barrett Pedersen. “We insisted that companies have a “business friendly” Village to work with. We instituted an aggressive business call program, reaching out to our local businesses to uncover obstacles to their growth and success. We worked to improve our customer service and cut red tape at Village Hall including streamlining our permitting process and occupancy applications. I am pleased to announce that these efforts have paid off.”

In the last twelve months, the Village has processed over 50 new business applications, representing a healthy mix of industrial users, service businesses and retail offerings.

These new businesses will add over 500 jobs to the community, said Pedersen.

“New employees mean new visitors to our Village, new customers at our retailers, and new patrons in our restaurants.”

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These new businesses are investing millions of dollars into Franklin Park. For example, Digital Realty a data-storage center that is moving to 9333-9377 West Grand Avenue, will be making \$28,000,000 of improvements to their new facility this year with more multimillion dollar improvements planned for the near future.

Midwest Can has invested over \$1.6 million to a property on Belmont Avenue and added over 50 new jobs. ACE Rent-A-Car has relocated from Des Plaines and will not only add 40 new employees, but is also working closely with the Village to add even more retail opportunities to the Village at their new location.

"We are pleased that the business community is recognizing our location and transportation advantages," said Pedersen. "Economic vitality leads to more jobs and stable home prices for our residents."

The Village is also citing growth in existing Franklin Park businesses such as Chicago Records Management which has expanded their operations and made over \$200,000 in building improvements. Multi-Group Logistics is also expanding and has leased additional parking space to accommodate their expanded fleet. PNC Bank moved across the street and built a larger branch with a convenient drive-thru. The expansion of Chicago Records Management is creating over 100 construction jobs and ComEd has submitted permit applications for \$800,000 improvement to its Transfer Station on Belmont.

Franklin Park has welcomed many new businesses in the last year including Multi- Tech Cold Forming, Prairie State Impressions, Simms Recycling Solutions and Ringspann Corporation, Northern Light Energy, Safe Traffic Systems, Mysterious and Reassuring, a retail consignment store and Merry Maids among others have all chosen to make Franklin Park their business address.

The Village is working to sustain and revitalize their commercial corridors too, including the Grand and Mannheim Shopping District. As a result of working with the owner of the empty K-Mart site to improve the condition and appearance of the property, the Village has helped attract

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the national retailer Big Lots to that location. Officials are currently working with additional national retailers to fill retail vacancies.

The Village is also refocusing attention to the heart of the community, the downtown district along Franklin Street. A recent grant award will allow to them to analyze and rezone the downtown area to encourage redevelopment opportunities and make it easier for businesses to set up shop in the downtown district. In addition, the Village is working with the downtown merchants to promote this corridor and to increase activity to the downtown. The Village has recently announced that a new specialty pub will be opening soon on the 9700 block of Franklin Avenue. In addition, there is a new owner and broker firm representing the retail space of Phase I of the Crossings.

“We are proud of the progress we have been able to make despite the recession,” concluded Pedersen. “But this is just the beginning. Our staff and elected officials will continue to work closely with business owners to encourage expansion, investment and relocation to our Village. We look forward to our economic development efforts paying dividends for our homeowners and residents.”