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**OVER 17,000 PASS CHICAGO FIREFIGHTER/EMT EXAM, MOVE ON
TO NEXT PHASE OF SELECTION PROCESS**

The City of Chicago today announces that over 17,000 applicants passed the Firefighter/EMT entry-level exam and have moved one step closer to becoming Firefighters/EMTs. Nearly 20,400 applicants took the exam and letters were mailed today informing them whether they passed or failed.

"We are pleased with the Firefighter/EMT exam results," said Mayor Richard M. Daley. "The new exam, coupled with the City's recruitment strategy, has produced a diverse and qualified candidate pool. Chicagoans deserve nothing less."

To attract a highly motivated, diverse and qualified applicant pool, the Chicago Fire Department conducted an aggressive recruitment campaign. For a two-month period, teams of recruiters fanned out across the City and neighboring states to promote the May 2006 exam at colleges and universities, churches, and community forums. The campaign also included targeted outreach to minority communities, including advertising in local newspapers, and on bus shelters, buses and elevated trains. Finally, recruitment efforts extended to numerous high-volume events such as the Auto Show and various job fairs in the Midwest and throughout the city of Chicago. Fire Commissioner Raymond Orozco said, "The hard work of our recruitment teams has paid off, providing the foundation for a fresh new diverse candidate pool. We will continue to work with the Department of Human Resources to offer opportunities for those who wish to join our family."

The grassroots recruiting approach was far reaching and proved effective. Of the candidates who passed the exam, 44% were minorities: 21% African American, 20% Hispanic, 3% Asian/Native American, as well as 54% Caucasian. (Two percent of applicants did not provide this information.) Additionally, the candidate pool was 86% male and 14% female.

"The diversity and sheer number of applicants for the Firefighter/EMT positions confirms that many citizens believe that Chicago is truly a great place to work and live," said Jacqueline P. King, Commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Human Resources.

The next steps in the exam process include, but are not limited to, a background investigation, physical abilities test, drug screening and medical examination. The Department of Human Resources anticipates administering the Firefighter/EMT exam every three years.

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