Community Responses to the *Becoming a Man (BAM) – Sports Edition* Study

July 13, 2012

We applaud the Crime Lab and the Chicago Public Schools for taking on this insightful and significant research to promote the development of our young people and the safety of our communities. Quality of life in the Great Lakes region is dependent on improving student outcomes and keeping violence down, and the *BAM-Sports Edition* program shows that both are possible. We hope this rigorous, evidence-based policy guidance will be taken seriously by schools and lawmakers for kids across the country. – Ellen Alberding, President, The Joyce Foundation

The positive results of this study show us that the use of strategic resources before a crime occurs can help to reduce violence in our communities and decrease the cost of crime. Alternatives to traditional law enforcement strategies, such as BAM, serve to benefit not only the youth that are engaged but the entire community as well. – Anita Alvarez, Cook County State’s Attorney

The *Becoming a Man – Sports Edition* program aims to tackle the very challenging problem of youth violence. Sport has a unique ability to positively impact the physical and social development of young people and everyone responsible for the program, including our Community Olympic Development Partner, World Sport Chicago, should be proud of their efforts to make a difference in the lives of our country’s youth. – Scott Blackmun, CEO, U.S. Olympic Committee

I’m thankful we have an opportunity to use empirical evidence to craft real world solutions to improve life outcomes for some of our most vulnerable youth. The success of this program is an example of the positive impact we can have through thoughtful and strategic collaboration with partners in the community. The Chicago Public Schools looks forward to working closely with the University of Chicago Crime Lab and the University of Chicago Urban Education Lab in this critical endeavor. – Jean-Claude Brizard, CEO, Chicago Public Schools

The initial findings from the BAM study along with the ambitious new project you are launching are vitally important to help Chicago make progress on two of this city’s—and every big city in America’s—most pressing public policy challenges, reducing youth violence and improving the high school graduation rate. – Felicia Davis, First Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel

With funding for social services decreasing every year, we need to know that every dollar invested in youth programs is yielding the greatest return to youth participants and their communities. The Crime Lab study provides solid evidence that putting resources into cost-effective youth mentoring programs like BAM is a smart investment for everyone. – Evelyn Diaz, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Family & Support Services

Addressing the problem of youth violence requires community-wide commitment. While no single approach can be a panacea, we believe that intervention programs of this type have already achieved results and show
great promise. We’re proud to be a part of Chicago’s effort to save its children, who are our future. – David Hiller, President & CEO, Robert R. McCormick Foundation

This is incredibly important evidence for Chicago. It shows with targeted interventions we can dramatically reduce violence and increase educational outcomes among urban youth. The Urban Education Lab now aims to take this work to scale. If the results hold, this offers tremendous promise for cities and schools nationwide. – Timothy F.C. Knowles, John Dewey Director, University of Chicago Urban Education Institute

The findings from this study are vitally important for Chicago and every other city seeking to reduce crime and violence. The best strategy is to deal with crime and violence before they happen, and this study has proven that prevention is possible. – Garry McCarthy, Superintendent, Chicago Police Department