CIVIC COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES CO-CHAIRS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

Chicago, IL - The Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago today named Mark Hoplamazian, President and CEO of Hyatt Hotels Corporation, and Eric Smith, Vice Chairman of BMO Bank, as the new co-chairs of the Committee’s Public Safety Task Force (PSTF). The two Chicago business leaders are replacing the late James Crown, who led the task force up until his tragic death in June.

Hoplamazian, a member of the Civic Committee, has been in his position at Hyatt since 2006, where he co-chairs the company’s Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council and oversees initiatives like RiseHY, dedicated to bringing Opportunity Youth into the workforce. Smith, a member of the Commercial Club, leads BMO EMpower which is the bank’s $40 billion/5-year commitment for promoting inclusive economic opportunity. In addition to their roles at Hyatt and BMO, Hoplamazian and Smith have demonstrated their deep commitment to our City with their engagement in numerous civic organizations. Hoplamazian serves as chair of Skills for Chicagoland’s Future and sits on the executive committee of World Business Chicago; Smith currently serves as chair of the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital Foundation and immediate past chair of the Chicago Urban League.

In a joint statement, Hoplamazian and Smith said, “We are honored to build on the legacy of Jim Crown, whose dedication to our City and the Public Safety Task Force was extraordinary. We reaffirm Jim’s vision that the business community has a significant role to play and are committed to building on his important work to help make Chicago the safest big city in America.”

As founding chair of the PSTF, Crown led it in its engagement with a broad group of stakeholders to develop a five-pillar plan for business community involvement in public safety issues. The plan commits both resources and jobs to help address immediate safety issues, including supporting police and expanding community violence intervention programs, and to address long-term root causes driving crime, including hiring from and investing in under-resourced communities of Chicago.

Civic Committee Chair Jennifer F. Scanlon said, “Mark and Eric have been key members of the Public Safety Task Force since its inception. They are an ideal team to help fulfill the vision of a
deeply engaged business community contributing to Chicago’s overall safety and well-being. Their leadership experience and love for Chicago are unmatched.”

“Chicago’s business community remains committed to helping reduce crime in Chicago,” said Commercial Club Chair Michael G. O’Grady. “Thanks to the PSTF we have identified our unique role in the public safety ecosystem, and we deeply appreciate Mark’s and Eric’s willingness to step up at this critical juncture.”

In announcing the Civic Committee framework in early June, the Civic Committee called on community leaders, non-profit organizations, and governments at every level to come together around “One Table” in support of a unified comprehensive plan to make Chicago safer. “The One-Table approach is vital to our collective success,” said Civic Committee President Derek Douglas said. “Addressing public safety is an all-hands-on-deck issue. We need to unite behind a single, comprehensive plan that both supports and enhances policing and helps take to scale critical community programs that are helping save lives.”

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About the Commercial Club of Chicago

Founded in 1877, the Commercial Club of Chicago is a membership organization of senior leaders in the region, who represent the business, education, cultural, and philanthropic sectors and are committed to the idea that cooperation and an open exchange of ideas are fundamental to success. As a leader behind initiatives in the areas of economic development, fiscal policy, business climate, transportation infrastructure, educational reform, and technology, the Commercial Club of Chicago and our affiliated organizations have played a key role in making Chicago the world-class city it is today. Our work spans the economic and social issues facing the Chicago region. At our nine annual lunches, we bring together business, government, and civic leaders to catalyze robust conversation about the key issues of the day. Our work continues through our affiliated organizations: the Civic Committee, Civic Consulting Alliance, Kids First Chicago, and P33.

About the Civic Committee

Founded in 1983 by the Commercial Club of Chicago, the Civic Committee is comprised of the senior executives of the Chicago region’s leading private employers. Its mission is to make our region a better place for everyone to live, work, and do business. The Civic Committee establishes task forces and committees to undertake studies, develop recommendations, and work to address key policy issues confronting the Chicago region.