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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CPD and Youth from Local Non-Profit Compete in “Play for Peace” Basketball Game

June 17, 2015, CHICAGO, IL –**The Chicago Police Department and Marillac St. Vincent Family Services’ Marillac House youth will ‘Play for Peace’, in a basketball matchup on June 24th at 6 p.m.** The game will take place in the recently constructed Foglia Family and Youth Center at Jackson and Francisco.

This game is part of a collaboration between Marillac St. Vincent Family Services and the 11th District Chicago Police to build a coalition of peace between the Department and the community it serves. CPD and Marillac House share a responsibility in keeping the Garfield Park community safe and have partnered for decades. This basketball game will serve to strengthen that relationship.

Eleventh District Chicago Police Commander, Barbara West, along with CAPS Sergeant Daniel Allen, recently visited Marillac House to talk with the staff about the growing concern of gun and drug-related violence in the Garfield Park neighborhood. They discussed strategies for educating children and youth on how to properly handle police interactions and the steps the Department is taking to build trust in the community.

As reported in a recent national CBS Evening News story, simply walking to school can put the children and youth of Marillac in harm’s way. (*One of America’s most dangerous walks to school*, June 12, 2015, <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/one-of-americas-most-dangerous-walks-to-school/>). With more than 1,100 shootings in Chicago this year alone, the community in Garfield Park is bracing for the worst as summer approaches and temperatures rise—conditions under which gun violence historically rises in the city.

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services’ Marillac House is a 100-year-old social service organization serving Chicago families on the North and West sides. These families live in some of the city’s most dangerous neighborhoods.

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