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CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CLEAR SYSTEM HONORED AS INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD WINNER

***Harvard University's Ash Institute Recognizes Citizen and Law Enforcement
Analysis and Reporting Database as Integral to Crime Reduction***

Cambridge, Mass., – September 25, 2007 – The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government today announced the Chicago Police Department's Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR) system as a 2007 Innovations in American Government Award winner. The CLEAR system was one of seven winners honored at yesterday's Innovations in American Government Awards twentieth anniversary reception in Washington, D.C. Recognized as central to the Chicago Police Department's efforts to curb violent crime, Chicago's CLEAR system will receive \$100,000 to support replication efforts across the nation.

Prior to the implementation of the CLEAR system, the city of Chicago frequently outranked other metropolitan areas in homicide and violent crime rates. Chicago Police Department officers spent valuable time at their desks searching for criminal data and filing paper work instead of fighting crime on their beats. Launched in 2003 and built by members of the department, the CLEAR system is widely credited as the primary factor in Chicago's decreasing crime rates. Despite escalating crime rates across the United States, Chicago reports 613 fewer homicides and 8,734 fewer shootings than years prior between 2004 and 2006.

Features of the CLEAR system include:

- **One Source of Real-Time Crime Data:** Officers can access valuable crime data from police cars and even right on the crime scene at anytime of day. The system cross-references against multiple databases of information on arrests and past convictions, criminal activity and incident reports on stolen vehicles and properties. Officers can quickly identify suspects on the spot using the system's database of more than 6 million mug shots. Using CLEAR's crime mapping capabilities, officers can efficiently pinpoint hot spots of criminal activity and focus deterrence efforts accordingly.
- **Administrative Efficiency:** Officers remote, 24x7 access to valuable criminal data, through desktop, laptop, mobile and hand-held devices, dramatically reduces the time required finding data and submitting paperwork. The Chicago Police Department estimates the resulting efficiencies are the equivalent to adding 700 officers to the force.
- **Community Engagement Tools:** New citizen-facing databases on registered sex offenders and wanted individuals on the CLEAR system encourage civic participation in deterring crime. Citizens can submit crime tips online and have access to crime mapping information.
- **Reduces Barriers to Data Sharing:** The CLEAR system facilitates criminal data sharing across agencies and jurisdictions to support enhanced coordination of intelligence operations. The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense both are evaluating the CLEAR system as a viable framework for tracking pre-terrorist activity.

"It is an honor to be recognized by Harvard's Ash Institute as a 2007 Innovations in American Government Award recipient," said Jonathan Lewin, commander of the Information Services Division of the Chicago Police Department. "We built the CLEAR system through seasoned field expertise to be a comprehensive source for all criminal information. The system allows our police force to do what they do best – play an active role in the community to deter crime."

"The Chicago Police Department's CLEAR system gives officers a single source for valuable criminal data. Whether an officer is investigating a crime scene, patrolling on the beat or working at the precinct, CLEAR equips him or her with the latest tools necessary to fight crime strategically and effectively," said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. "Through its collaborative data sharing approach to crime prevention, Chicago reports fewer homicides and a more engaged citizen population. We anticipate that municipalities nationwide will benefit from Chicago's exemplary law enforcement program as a 2007 Innovations in American Government Award winner."

Since 1986, the Ash Institute's Innovations in American Government Award Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government has honored 174 federal, state and local government agencies through Ford Foundation support. Through this annual competition, the Program provides concrete evidence that government can work to improve the quality of life of citizens. Many award-winning programs have been replicated across jurisdictions and policy areas, and some have served as harbingers of today's reform strategies or as forerunners to state and federal legislation. By highlighting exemplary models of government's innovative programs over the past 20 years, the Program drives continued progress and encourages research and teaching cases at Harvard University and other academic institutions worldwide.

About The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, publications, leadership training, global network and awards program – developed in collaboration with a diverse, engaged community of scholars and practitioners - the Ash Institute fosters creative and effective government problem-solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world's citizens. The Ford Foundation is a founding donor of the institute. Additional information about The Ash Institute is available at www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu. Organizations are encouraged to apply to the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards by October 15, 2007 at www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu.

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