



A Century of Progress with Pride

6700 West 26th Street Berwyn, Illinois 60402-2500 Telephone: (708) 788-2660 Fax: (708) 788-2567
www.berwyn-il.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor O'Connor Meets with Mayor Daley for Transfer of Historic Berwyn Documents

BERWYN – Berwyn Mayor Michael O'Connor traveled to Chicago City Hall this week and obtained an important part of Berwyn's history.

In his fifth floor office at City Hall, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley handed off to Mayor O'Connor documents related to Berwyn's formation in 1901. The documents, which are in fragile condition, belonged to the Chicago Public Library. The documents contain information from the turn of the century, when Berwyn was still part of Cicero Township. Efforts by residents of the areas now known as Berwyn and Oak Park resulted in votes to formally separate the two from Cicero in 1901. Later, in 1908, the City of Berwyn was incorporated.

Berwyn Library Director Bill Hensley and Berwyn Historical Society President Lori Thielen enlisted the help of Mayor O'Connor to contact his counterpart in Chicago to work on making the transfer possible. Library Commissioner Mary Dempsey represented the Chicago Public Library. Joining O'Connor at the hand-off were Hensley, Thielen and Dr. Ralph Pugh a historical archivist at Illinois Institute of Technology. Pugh is working with the Historical Society to preserve the documents.

Mayor O'Connor returned Mayor Daley's favor by giving Daley a copy of the official Centennial recipe book, "Recipes & Memories," a Berwyn Centennial polo shirt, and a tote bag with the Berwyn Centennial logo. "The gifts we brought were a gesture of thanks to Mayor Daley. I appreciate his help in allowing Berwyn to get these valuable documents in time for our Centennial. Historical Society President Lori Thielen had been trying to get these items for almost a decade," Mayor O'Connor said.

Berwyn is celebrating its centennial year with a parade on June 1 and a Centennial Festival running from June 18 to June 22. More information about Berwyn Centennial activities is available with Centennial Committee Chairman Carl Reina at (708) 788-2660 ext. 209.



LEFT PHOTO: (From left) Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, Berwyn Historical Society President Lori Thielen, Berwyn Mayor Michael O'Connor, Chicago Library Commissioner Mary Dempsey, and Berwyn Library Director Bill Hensley in Mayor Daley's office during a transfer of historic Berwyn documents. RIGHT PHOTO: Lori Thielen and Mayor O'Connor present gifts celebrating Berwyn's Centennial to Mayor Daley.