



## Office of Will County Executive Lawrence M. Walsh

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
*Sept. 17, 2009*

### **WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALSH PRESENTS STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS**

JOLIET, IL – Today, Will County Executive Larry Walsh delivered his annual State of the County address during the September County Board meeting.

Economic development was the highlight of Walsh’s speech as he outlined plans for the Centerpoint Intermodal Center which recently broke ground on a 3,900-acre site, which is an important project for Will County. This intermodal site reflects a \$2 billion private investment in Will County and is poised to bring as many as 15,000 jobs to the local community.

“However, the emergence of Will County as the nation’s largest inland port definitely comes with challenges,” Walsh said. “The County’s roads and bridges have been impacted by the addition of thousands of new truck trips daily from the intermodal facilities. We have been working with developers to ensure that they contribute to the improvement and modernization of our roadway system.”

Walsh also reported continued economic growth for the County from the private sector as Central Grocers, Inc., Honeywell Safety Products, Inc., and Panduit have chosen Will County to relocate their respective corporate headquarters.

“The common element in attracting each of these major projects has been the dedication and diligence of critical partnerships that all pitched in to make them a reality,” he added. “You have my commitment as County Executive, we will continue to do our best to create jobs and improve our tax base here in the County of Will.”

Will County has received more than \$11 million in funding through the federal stimulus program and Walsh said the County did not waste any time putting these dollars to work. The Will County Workforce Division has been able to initiate career training and summer youth employment programs, which employed more than 400 young people this past summer, to assist displaced workers, economically disadvantaged workers, and youth to upgrade their skills so that

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as the economy improves so does the level of skills of our local workforce.

Walsh also presented a balanced budget to the Will County Board. He said the County was hit hard by revenue declines caused by the prolonged economic downturn.

“We anticipate a loss in revenue for FY 2010 of over \$4 million. That is in addition to revenue in FY 2009 that did not meet projections” Walsh said.

Walsh said it is remarkable that through cooperation and shared sacrifice, the County closed a \$19 million hole without cutting public services.

“Credit goes to all County elected officials, department heads, and county employees for making tough decisions to cut costs and make sacrifices.

“Our work on this budget is not finished. I pledge our continued cooperation with the County Board as we complete this budget process and I thank you for your cooperation so far.”