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**For immediate release**

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## **Burge Torture Case Names Mayor Daley, Former Mayor Jane Byrne, as Defendants**

### ***Darrell Cannon Still in Prison Despite Evidence of Tortured Confession***

CHICAGO – Attorneys for Burge torture victim Darrell Cannon added Mayor Richard M. Daley and former Mayor Jane Byrne as Defendants in a lawsuit alleging they conspired with State's Attorney Richard Devine, Area 2 Commander Jon Burge, and numerous of his men to cover-up systematic torture of African-American suspects.

Evidence shows that Burge and his subordinates tortured more than 100 African-American suspects during a 20-year period, in an effort to compel defendants into falsely confessing to crimes. A special prosecutor report released in 2006 also found that torture occurred at Area 2 under Burge during the 70s and 80s.

Cannon's amended lawsuit alleges that Daley and Devine were complicit in a concerted cover-up of the torture by refusing to prosecute Burge for torturing suspects, withholding evidence of this torture, prosecuting defendants who had been victimized by the ruthless police techniques, by making false statements to the media, and by giving false and incomplete statements to the Special Prosecutors.

The amended suit also alleges that former Mayor Jane Byrne met with Burge on three occasions just prior to the arrest of Andrew Wilson, a well known Burge torture victim; and that she approved and encouraged the widespread physical abuse and unconstitutional conduct during the manhunt for Wilson that was led by Burge.

The new complaint is being filed on behalf of Darrell Cannon, a man who has spent more than 23 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. He was coerced into confessing to the crime after being taken, in November of 1983, to a remote site and tortured with electric-shock, mock execution, and racial abuse by several notorious Area 2 detectives, including Sergeant John Byrne and Detective Peter Dignan, acting under Jon Burge's supervision. Several judicial and administrative bodies, including the Illinois Appellate Court, the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, and investigators for the Chicago Police Department have previously found that there is strong evidence that Cannon was tortured.

Nonetheless, the City continues to refuse to justly compensate Cannon for his torture and wrongful conviction.

In November 2006, Cook County Circuit Court Judge James Henry instructed state officials to grant a new parole hearing for Cannon. This ruling overturned a 2004 ruling by the Illinois Prisoner Review Board that rejected Cannon's request for parole even though prosecutors dropped the criminal case against him and Board Chairman Jorge Montes admitted he was "inclined to believe" that Burge and his underlings had tortured Cannon in an effort to extract a confession to a 1983 murder. Cannon's new hearing has not yet been scheduled.

In 1983, while he was on parole from a 1971 conviction, Cannon was arrested by the Chicago Police and charged with the murder of Darren Ross. Cannon said he confessed to the murder only after Sgt. John Byrne and Detective Peter Dignan placed a shotgun in his mouth and pulled the trigger and shocked his genitals with a cattle prod.