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Madigan leads way out of 'windows' dilemma

Homeowners elated; new fund will replace defective windows, doors

By Tim Hadac

A two-year nightmare endured by hundreds of Southwest Side homeowners may be starting to end, thanks to a solution crafted by Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan (D-22nd).

The solution is state legislation that annually earmarks millions of tax dollars to replace defective (and possibly toxic) windows and doors supplied to homeowners through the City of Chicago's Residential Sound Insulation Program.

The new state budget, recently passed with bipartisan support led by Madigan, will direct \$7.5 million every year from aviation fuel sales taxes into the Sound Reducing Windows and Doors Replacement Fund, a lockbox to replace sound-muffling windows and doors near Midway and O'Hare airports.

Additionally, the fund will provide indoor-air quality monitoring to guard against any adverse health effects.

(Editor's note: details of

the legislation can be found in a related story on page 15.)

The breakthrough was disclosed exclusively to the Greater Southwest News-Herald in a conversation with Madigan and 13th Ward Ald. Marty Quinn last weekend. The News-Herald has covered the story repeatedly since breaking it two years ago.

Madigan said the RSIP dilemma "has been a continuing problem. Alderman Quinn has had difficulty persuading the Chicago

Department of Aviation to rectify the problem."

Mayor Lightfoot signals support

"I had a meeting with Mayor Lightfoot, the Friday before her inauguration... we talked generally about problems of the government of the City of Chicago where there might be some assistance from the State of Illinois," the Speaker continued. "I raised the question of the [RSIP] windows and the doors. I explained that Alderman Quinn had worked quite a bit on trying to solve the problem... her initial comment was sup-

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Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan (D-22nd) talks about the newly created Sound Reducing Windows and Doors Replacement Fund

— Greater Southwest News-Herald photo by Mary Hadac

