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**MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES ORDINANCE
DESIGNED TO REDUCE ILLEGAL FLY DUMPING**

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) today introduced an ordinance to crack down on fly dumping, the practice of illegally leaving waste on public or private property to avoid proper disposal. The measure, which is also paired with the installment of additional security cameras in areas where fly dumping is common, significantly increases fines on those who illegally discard materials.

“Today, we are taking another step toward ensuring that the children and families of Chicago have safe, clean and pollution-free spaces to live, work and play,” said Mayor Emanuel. “To those who have been using Chicago as their personal dump, we say: dispose of your waste properly or we will make sure you clean up your mess and pay the penalty.”

Fly dumping waste ranges from construction debris to barrels of hazardous materials. It can endanger the environmental and public health of residents by attracting rats; creating a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes that may carry the West Nile Virus; and polluting land, air and water. CDPH has undertaken several large cleanups over the last two years, including one where 121,000 cubic yards of crushed concrete was left on a vacant site. CDPH required the responsible party to pay a hefty fine and properly clean up the site.

“The City’s environmental inspectors have been aggressively enforcing the law against illegal dumpers—but the cameras and fine increases will give us new tools to assure our residents’ health and to protect public and private property,” said CDPH Commissioner Julie Morita, M.D.

Last year, the Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS) completed almost 4,000 fly-dumping clean-ups, which generated over 32,000 tons for disposal, which costs \$48 per ton to remove. A reduction in fly-dumping will amount to real disposal savings.

“Every year we waste money to remove debris that has been intentionally left in vacant lots by fly-dumpers,” said DSS Commissioner Charles L. Williams. “These cameras will make for another added efficiency to our tax-payers, by not only deterring the practice, but also providing

a better way to apprehend and ticket offenders as fly dumping is historically done at night or in low-traffic areas.”

The measure will give CDPH environmental inspectors more tools to hold illegal fly dumpers accountable. The goal is to reduce the burden on the City resulting in lower cleanup costs and reduced time spent going after violators. This ordinance proposes that fines in the municipal code increase from a maximum of \$3,500 for repeat violators to \$30,000 for large quantities plus additional penalties added for hazardous liquid waste. Additionally, in an effort to identify those who may be dumping waste illegally, security cameras will be installed in areas across the city where fly dumping is common.

The fly dumping ordinance is the latest in a series of steps Mayor Emanuel has taken to protect the environment, ranging from shutting down petcoke operations on the southeast side to committing Chicago to meeting the requirements of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

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