



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2013

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

**CITY PROPOSES UPDATES TO THE REGULATION OF THE HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE
INDUSTRY IN CHICAGO**

Proposed ordinance amendments seek to streamline licensing and enforcement to improve overall operations and safety for the industry

Today, Mayor Emanuel introduced an ordinance to the City Council proposing to update and amend the existing Horse Drawn Carriage (HDC) Ordinance (MCC 9-108) in the City of Chicago. The existing ordinance has not been updated in many years and the proposed amendments provide improved safety measure for the horses and passengers using horse drawn carriages in the City of Chicago.

"These are important updates that will improve safety for horses and passengers and ensure that this industry is regulated appropriately," said Mayor Emanuel.

Specifically, the proposed amendments streamline the language, update license requirements, modernize fees to match other public passenger vehicle license types and reflect current industry practice for Horse Drawn Carriages.

The Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) regulates and licenses the horse drawn carriage industry in the City of Chicago. By establishing uniform license requirements and process for similar public passenger vehicles, BACP regulate the industry with greater efficiency.

The proposed amendments also reflect practices of the HDC industry. The current ordinance stipulates horse drawn carriage operators follow the O'Hare Airport weather conditions. As the carriages primarily operate in the downtown area the proposed HDC ordinance will link operations to weather conditions at Northerly Island. The current ordinance also restricts HDC drivers to possess Illinois driver's licenses. The proposed amendments will permit those with valid driver's licenses from other states eligible for a HDC public chauffeur license.

The proposed amendments also increase fees that no longer cover the actual licensing costs to the City. Some fees have remained unchanged since 1990.

###