



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

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**MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES AMENDMENTS TO ZONING ORDINANCE RELATED TO
PARKING**

*Amendments Will Protect City and Taxpayers from Liability in Non-Compete Area in Central Area
Parking District*

Mayor Emanuel today introduced several amendments to the zoning ordinance related to public parking that would discourage new or expanded public parking facilities in the Central Area Parking District where high concentrations of public parking already exist. The amendments also seek to protect the City and its taxpayers from liability due to errors in the awarding of public parking licenses within the non-compete area for the Chicago Loop Parking (CLP) concession agreement, which in the case of the Aqua Building recently resulted in an arbitration award of more than \$50 million in damages to CLP.

The amendments introduced today would:

- Expand the boundaries of the Central Area Parking District to fully incorporate the non-compete area. A portion of the non-compete area is presently excluded from the Central Area Parking District. The boundaries of the Central Area Parking District, as expanded by this proposed ordinance, would be: Kinzie Street/North Water Street on the North; Lake Shore Drive on the East; Harrison Street on the South; Canal Street on the West; and
- Require the zoning administrator to notify the commissioner of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection and the Corporation Counsel of any proposal for a new or expanded public parking facility in the Central Area Parking District. The commissioner of BACP and the Corporation Counsel must in turn provide written acknowledgement of receipt of such notice. The amendment further provides that zoning approvals and licenses for new or expanded non-accessory parking facilities in the Central Area Parking District are not valid unless such notice and acknowledgement of receipt are delivered.

“The proposed changes introduced today would require planned development review and approval for all public parking facilities in the expanded Central Area Parking District, which now fully incorporates the non-compete area, as well as ensure that all relevant City departments are aware

of any request for new public parking downtown,” said Mayor Emanuel. “Further, by strongly discouraging additional public parking facilities, the proposed amendments will help reduce automobile use and encourage alternative modes of transportation, thereby alleviating congestion in the downtown area.”

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