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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2014

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CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES ORDINANCE REGULATING SALES OF FIREARMS IN CHICAGO TO COMPLY WITH COURT ORDER

Ordinance Incorporates Best Practices to Help Prevent Gun Trafficking

The City Council today approved an ordinance introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and co-sponsored by Alderman James Balcer, Alderman Deborah Graham, Alderman Ameya Pawar and Alderman James Cappelman that regulates the sales of firearms and complies with a court order to allow gun stores to open in Chicago.

The Chicago Police Department, with assistance from the University of Chicago Crime Lab, today released a report exposing the impact of the illegal gun market on Chicago's violence. The analysis reveals that Chicago's violence issues are directly linked to the number of illegal guns on the City's streets, that the majority of guns recovered in crimes in Chicago were first sold in states with weaker gun laws and that a handful of gun stores are responsible for a disproportionate number of guns used in crimes.

"Every family, every child, every person in Chicago deserves to enjoy the same sense of freedom and safety," said Mayor Emanuel. "Illegal guns are the leading factor in driving violence and this ordinance mandates simple, reasonable steps we can take to curb the flow of illegal guns onto our streets."

Due to the fact that a federal court has ordered the City of Chicago to allow commercial gun sales, the City drafted one of the toughest, smartest licensing laws in the country.

In order to operate with a city license, gun stores will be required to take a number of steps that are proven to minimize gun trafficking, illegal gun sales and theft including:

- Employee background checks and state-of-the-art training
- Anti-theft safety plans and quarterly inventory audits
- Video cameras to record the point of sale
- Maintain a log of all guns sales where the gun was later recovered in a crime and traced back to the store
- Sell only one handgun per month per buyer
- Make store records available to police for inspection at all reasonable times

- 72-hour waiting period to purchase handguns, and a 24-hour waiting period to purchase rifles and shotguns

Additionally, the City would ensure a dealer whose business license is revoked cannot reopen immediately in the same location or by former employees.

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