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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2020

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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO ENSURE ROBUST PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CHICAGO – The City Council today approved an ordinance introduced by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot to codify the executive authorities enacted last month to ensure a citywide emergency health response amid COVID-19. The ordinance codifies emergency action taken by Mayor Lightfoot in March following the onset of the pandemic and provides guidance around the City's efforts to support and equip frontline workers and provide necessary supplies and care for residents.

“During this crisis that has befallen Chicago, we as city leaders have a responsibility to ensure the public's health, safety and wellbeing during what is truly a remarkable global crisis and defining moment in our city,” said Mayor Lightfoot. “This emergency ordinance represents the work we've done from day one – which has centered around taking decisive action and putting resources in place quickly to protect the sick and save lives. Working alongside our colleagues in the City Council, we will continue to take every action necessary to keep our residents safe and to start working toward addressing the economic impacts created by this crisis. We're all in this together.”

Last month, Mayor Lightfoot issued an Emergency Executive Order (EO) in response to COVID-19 an unprecedented global medical crisis requiring swift and decisive action to protect the health, safety and well-being of Chicago's residents. The EO, effectuated on March 17, granted temporary authorities associated with the citywide response, including allowing emergency budget activity, increasing existing emergency contracting authorities, and creating a temporary authority to enter into new lease agreements necessary to facilitate the citywide emergency public health response.

In order to ensure a sustained response to the crisis, the ordinance approved by the City Council today codifies temporary measures, including: authorizing the budget director to appropriate emergency-related funds and to take emergency budget action in anticipation of federal reimbursement; adjusting existing emergency contracting authority from \$500,000 to \$1 million; and modifying existing authority



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for the Department of Assets, Information and Services to allow indemnification for lease agreements associated with the emergency response.

The ordinance also requires all vendors and suppliers to provide the City with economic disclosure statements within the first 60 days of any new emergency contract award and requires the budget director and the chief procurement officer to provide weekly reports of contract and budgetary activities to the City Council Budget Committee. The ordinance shall be repealed of its own accord, without further action of the City Council, upon the earlier of either: June 30th, 2020 or barring a written determination made by the CDPH Commissioner if additional time is needed.

Since the administration first leveraged emergency powers last month, the City has undertaken significant measures to assist with the citywide response to COVID-19. This includes covering emergency-related expenses associated with the new McCormick Place Alternate Care Facility (ACF) including costs for construction and materials, wraparound services, and clinical staff. The City has also coordinated leases with several emergency shelter sites to decompress its existing homeless shelter sites, helping provide necessary services for one of the populations most vulnerable to the virus. Additionally, the emergency authorities have facilitated supplies and equipment for the Emergency Operation Center and have helped the City procure countless other supplies and equipment, including providing close to one million pieces of personal protection equipment (PPE) for first responders, front line workers and hospitals across the city.

The City of Chicago remains under a mandatory statewide Stay-at-Home order issued by Governor JB Pritzker. Since the pandemic first began, the City has coordinated several policy actions to safeguard the health and safety of its residents, including: issuing several public health orders, mandating a sick leave policy and workforce measures to protect workers as well as residents, temporarily closing City Hall and other government buildings, and ordering the temporary closure of the City's lakefront to ensure social distancing is maintained during the order.

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