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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2017

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**CITY COUNCIL RECONFIRMS CHICAGO'S RESTRICTION ON TRAVEL TO NORTH CAROLINA
DUE TO DISCRIMINATORY LGBTQ LAWS**

City Council today reaffirmed the City's policy restricting travel to North Carolina despite recent action by the state of North Carolina to amend its discriminatory bathroom policy. In March 2016, Mayor Emanuel issued an executive order barring non-essential travel by City employees to North Carolina in response to the state's discriminatory laws.

"The partial repeal of HB2 in March 2017 was a second-rate attempt at deceiving the NBA, the NCAA and other organizations into believing that the state is welcoming to transgender individuals," said Mayor Emanuel. "Until North Carolina acknowledges the rights of the LGBTQ community and treats everyone fairly, the City of Chicago remains steadfast in our commitment to taking our business elsewhere, and we encourage others to do the same."

Last year, the Emanuel administration took swift action in response to the passage of a North Carolina law which prohibited local governments from passing laws to protect members of the LGBTQ community, directing City department heads to restrict any City-funded or other travel by an employee representing the City of Chicago to the State of North Carolina. Since then, Chicago has ceased authorizing new non-essential travel to the state in conducting city business.

While the state of North Carolina recently amended its bathroom policy, the changes do not explicitly account for the rights of the broader LGBTQ community. Specifically, recent measures prevent local governments and municipalities in the state from passing their own local anti-discrimination laws and replace HB2's discriminatory, anti-transgender bathroom regulations with new regulations that continue to make it difficult for transgender people to access restrooms consistent with their gender identity.

"Today's decision by City Council demonstrates Chicago's continued commitment to preventing discrimination against any and all groups," said Mona Noriega, Chair and Commissioner of the Commission on Human Relations. "From Chicago to North Carolina and beyond, we will not stand idly by as discriminatory policies are passed as law, threatening the rights of all individuals and against discrimination in any form."

This is the latest action taken by the Mayor to combat discrimination against LGBTQ and transgender individuals. Since 2011, a series of policies have been implemented to secure the overall inclusion and rights of the LGBTQ community and to prevent discrimination throughout the city of Chicago. These include the City's own bathroom protection policy and landmark transgender health care reforms.

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