



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

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CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

**CITY COUNCIL CONFIRMS MAYOR EMANUEL'S APPOINTMENT
OF RICHARD FORD AS NEW FIRE COMMISSIONER**

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today announced that City Council confirmed the appointment of Richard C. Ford II as the new Chicago Fire Department (CFD) Commissioner. Ford has served as Acting Commissioner since September 1.

"Firefighters respond in our most challenging times," said Mayor Emanuel. "Richard Ford has the values, the fortitude and the experience to lead the Fire Department and continue to provide exceptional emergency services to residents."

Ford has been with CFD for 35 years and has served as the First Deputy Commissioner since February 2016 overseeing their day-to-day operations. He previously served as Deputy Fire Commissioner of Fire Prevention, a role in which he was responsible for CFD's enforcement of fire and building code compliance. He has also previously served as the Assistant Director of Training, Chicago Transit Authority Liaison and served as the Battalion Chief for Engine 42 Firehouse.

"I am humbly honored to take on this new leadership role at the Fire Department and strengthen our efforts to provide the best emergency fire and medical services to the residents of Chicago," said Commissioner Ford. "The responsibility to the residents of this great city, to keep them safe and care for them in their time of need, is not one that I take lightly."

Ford received his Bachelor of Applied Science from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, in 2008. Born and raised in the Chatham neighborhood, Ford is a life-long Chicagoan.

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