



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITY COUNCIL CONFIRMS FINANCIAL AND REGULATORY CABINET APPOINTMENTS**

*BACP Commissioner Samantha Fields Approved as Budget Director; Rosa Escareno Approved as BACP Commissioner*

City Council today approved Mayor Rahm Emanuel's appointments of Samantha Fields as Budget Director for the City of Chicago and Rosa Escareno as Commissioner of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP). Fields, who was previously the Commissioner of BACP, replaces departing Budget Director Alexandra Holt, and Escareno replaces Fields at BACP.

"Samantha Fields will build on Alex's record of results as Chicago continues on the path of fiscal reform," said Mayor Emanuel. "Likewise, Rosa Escareno has proven that she will be a strong advocate for Chicago's consumers and small businesses in her new role as BACP Commissioner."

At BACP, Fields led the Mayor's efforts to ensure government red tape is not a barrier to operating a business. Under her leadership, Commissioner Fields further reduced the number of businesses license types by cutting seven business license types through consolidation of standalone licenses into broader license categories for liquor, public place of amusement and tobacco. Prior to her appointment at BACP, Fields served as the First Deputy Director of the Office of Legislative Counsel and Government Affairs for the Mayor's office, where she organized City Council meetings, helped craft the Mayor's legislative agenda, and negotiated and drafted legislation on a range of issues. She received a law degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and an undergraduate degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Fields lives in Beverly.

"I want to thank Mayor Emanuel for his confidence in me, and I look forward to continuing the work of Mayor Emanuel and the City Council to ensure lasting budget stability," said Director Fields.

Most recently serving as a Deputy Chief Operating Officer to Mayor Emanuel, Escareno has worked for the City of Chicago for nearly 20 years. As Deputy Chief Operating Officer, she oversaw the day-to-day operations of several government agencies, including BACP, the Department of Planning and Development, the Chicago Department of Buildings, the Chicago Department of Public Health, the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, Chicago Public Library, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities and Chicago Animal Care and Control. She also spearheaded operational efficiencies across City agencies to maximize resource allocation and advance the administration's priorities. Previously, Escareno was a BACP Deputy Commissioner, where she led the Division of Public Affairs and Education Division, managing its administration and operations. She also served as the Department of Business Affairs and Licensing's Advocacy and Licensing Division, serving on the transition team that realigned functions and services into a new agency designed to become the

City's one stop shop for businesses. She has also previously held roles at the Chicago Fire Department and the Office of Management and Budget. Escareno holds a bachelor's degree from Loyola University and a master's degree in communication from Northwestern University. She lives in the Hermosa neighborhood and is the proud mother of her 10-year old son, Mikey.

"I am honored that Mayor Emanuel has given me the opportunity to serve as an advocate for the residents of Chicago and to help businesses of all sizes thrive," said Escareno. "I look forward to carrying out the Mayor's vision to continue to support Chicago's small business community and continue make it easier for businesses to grow and thrive in the City."

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