



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT ANNOUNCES CHRISTOPHER OWEN TO SERVE AS  
COMMISSIONER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**CHICAGO** – Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot today announced Christopher Owen as the next Commissioner of the Department of Human Relations (DHR). Owen, who brings over two decades of human resources and compliance experience with the City, will take the lead role in the City's hiring department after serving as First Deputy Commissioner since 2011.

"For a decade now, Chris served the City of Chicago with distinction, helping lead DHR as it's made leaps and bounds in implementing long-needed personnel and good governance reforms," said Mayor Lightfoot. "Now, with Chris formally assuming his role as DHR's commissioner, I look forward to continue working closely with him as we to ensure Chicago's residents and businesses have the best talent supporting them across our communities every single day."

Since 2011, Owen has overseen managing and directing the administration and implementation of a variety of human resources programs and functions including recruitment, classification and compensation, testing, EEO, employee records, and employee training and development.

As DHR Commissioner, Owen will lead the enforcement of the City of Chicago's human resources policies including: managing and approving all human resources functions within the City; advising City departments and department heads on human resources matters; and ensuring a fair and equitable hiring process using CAREERS. Additionally, the DHR directs the creation of programs that promote employee development and enhance management skills for employees and supervisors throughout City government.

"It is truly an honor to be selected by Mayor Lightfoot to lead this city's Department of Human Resources," said First Deputy Commissioner Christopher Owen. "I have had the pleasure of serving with the department for over 20 years and this team's tireless work plays an essential role in what makes this city so great."



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Owen has spent more than 20 years in the DHR, first serving as an investigator in the sexual harassment office and then as the Chief Operations Analyst. Prior to his most recent role as first deputy, Owen served as an Associate Compliance Officer in the City's Office of the Inspector General's hiring oversight section. While at the Office of the Inspector General, Owen was responsible for drafting the City's first hiring plan for the Chicago Fire Department to work toward substantial compliance under the Shakman Accord.

Owen is a graduate of DePaul University College of Law and Columbia College Chicago.

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