



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2018

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

MAYOR EMANUEL, ALDERMAN O'SHEA INTRODUCE ORDINANCE TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE CITY'S PURCHASES OF GOODS, SERVICES DO NOT SUPPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Alderman Matt O'Shea today introduced an ordinance to City Council designed to ensure that the city does not purchase goods or services from companies that engage in human trafficking.

"Local governments have the greatest understanding of challenges facing our communities and are well-positioned to design and implement policies to prevent and address problems like human trafficking," said Mayor Emanuel. "This ordinance allows the City of Chicago to leverage our buying power to ensure that our tax dollars are not supporting human trafficking."

This ordinance will help to protect vulnerable individuals from exploitation by requiring city contractors to affirm that neither they nor their suppliers and subcontractors engage in human trafficking or forced labor.

Every year in the United States, thousands of men, women and children are exploited and trafficked for labor or sex. The International Labor Organization estimates 24.9 million people are trapped in forced labor globally, and the U.S. Department of Labor estimates that 139 types of commodities and goods are made using forced labor or child labor. Human trafficking particularly impacts communities of color, indigenous and tribal communities, immigrant communities - including those who are undocumented - LGBTQ youth, people with disabilities and those with a history of substance abuse.

Human trafficking has been historically viewed as a law enforcement problem and much of the anti-trafficking work in the United States has focused on a criminal justice response. While the importance of law enforcement engagement cannot be overstated, it does not typically address prevention, in particular the root causes of trafficking.

"As elected officials, it is incumbent upon us to do all we can to protect the most vulnerable among us," said Alderman O'Shea. "I am proud to work with Mayor Emanuel to take an innovative approach to address the problem of human trafficking."

The City of Chicago is part of Pathways to Freedom, a first-of-its-kind anti-trafficking challenge to develop citywide approaches to better prevent human trafficking and support survivors. The challenge, created by Humanity United and led by the NoVo Foundation, is a public-private partnership dedicated to spurring innovation in the fight to end human trafficking. As part of the

Pathways to Freedom Challenge, Chicago is seeking to address trafficking in new ways by recognizing its role in helping to end human trafficking as a purchaser of goods and services and upholding its responsibility to ensure taxpayer dollars do not contribute to human trafficking.

###