

## **CITY SUSPENDS REVIEW OF RMG PERMIT CONSISTENT WITH U.S. EPA REQUEST**

### ***Statement Attributed to Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot***

Earlier today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recommended that the city complete a specific, additional environmental analysis prior to reaching a decision on the permit requested by Reserve Management Group (RMG). The U.S. EPA pledged its assistance to the city in this effort. As a direct result of this request, today, I directed the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) to initiate an environmental study recommended by the U.S. EPA and to delay a final decision on RMG's permit application seeking to expand its metal recycling facility operated on the Southeast Side, pending completion of this further analysis.

CDPH is the last step in an extensive set of permits needed by RMG to safely operate its large metal recycling plant in an area already zoned for industry. As part of its review process, earlier this year we contacted the U.S. EPA seeking their guidance regarding RMG's application – especially considering the size and location of the proposed additional use.

The City relies on state and federal agencies to help us appropriately assess a business's potential impact on the surrounding community; in the case concerning RMG, the U.S. EPA has expressed several concerns.

The City shares the U.S. EPA's commitment to environmental justice and public health, and we look forward to partnering with them to conduct a fair, thorough and timely health impact analysis to inform our future decision-making on the RMG permit application.

My administration aims to foster economic growth and jobs creation in our communities, while improving the health and quality of life for our residents. In pursuit of this objective, I have directed the City's Chief Sustainability Officer and the Department of Public Health to propose a new cumulative impact ordinance for consideration by the City Council before the end of this year. The ordinance would require an assessment of the additional environmental impact of an industrial business operations on the surrounding community when reviewing a permit application. We are also exploring additional policy steps the City can take to protect our most vulnerable communities from pollution as this ordinance is being developed.

This action is in line with the Lightfoot administration's commitment to ensuring a more robust citywide action plan to advance air quality and climate improvement goals.