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**MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES FINANCIAL AND REGULATORY CABINET APPOINTMENTS
TO CITY COUNCIL**

*BACP Commissioner Samantha Fields Named Budget Director Following the Announcement of
Director Alexandra Holt's Departure; Rosa Escareno Appointed BACP Commissioner*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel introduced to City Council today the 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 is currently the Commissioner of BACP, will replace departing Budget Director Alexandra Holt, and Escareno will replace Fields at BACP.

"I am grateful for Alex Holt's exemplary service to the City of Chicago. Alex has been an invaluable and thoughtful partner in reducing the City's budget deficit, eliminating the bad financial practices of the past, putting our pension funds on the path to solvency and creating a strong, sustainable future for the City of Chicago," said Mayor Emanuel. "I know that Samantha Fields will build on Alex's record of results as Chicago continues on the path of fiscal reform. 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."

Budget Director Holt announced her departure earlier this month after 20 years working for the City of Chicago with six of those years as Budget Director leading many of the Mayor's key financial and budgetary reforms. In her time as Budget Director, Director Holt spearheaded the Mayor's work to bring about more financial and budget transparency, eliminate the City's structural deficit and achieve sustainable pension reform solutions. In her tenure, she has reduced the City's structural deficit by 80 percent to its lowest point in nearly a decade through more than \$600 million in budget savings, reforms and efficiencies coupled with sustainable revenue growth. She worked to virtually eliminate the use of one time revenues to balance the City's budget. She was also integral to identifying key reforms and balanced funding solutions for all four pension funds. Director Holt will depart city service on July 1.

"It has been a pleasure working on behalf of the residents of Chicago," said Director Holt. "Helping to implement Mayor Emanuel's vision for a sound budget built on true government reforms has been tremendously fulfilling, and I know Sam is uniquely qualified to continue this work."

In her current role, BACP Commissioner Fields has 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 if confirmed by City Council, I look forward to continuing the work of Mayor Emanuel and the City Council to ensure lasting budget stability," said Commissioner Fields.

Currently serving as a Deputy Chief Operating Officer to Mayor Emanuel, Escareno has worked for the City of Chicago for nearly 20 years. In her current role, she oversees 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 spearheads 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."

Fields and Escareno will serve in interim roles as Budget Director and BACP Commissioner, respectively, pending City Council approval.

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