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UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 4:30 AM

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**MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES PROCESS TO APPOINT SEVENTH WARD ALDERMAN
FOR CITY COUNCIL**

Website Launched this Morning Will Ensure Comprehensive and Open Process

Today, Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced the process to identify a replacement for Alderman Sandi Jackson to serve and represent the residents of Chicago's 7th ward.

"There will be a comprehensive process to identify a replacement to serve the residents of Chicago's 7th Ward," said Mayor Emanuel. "I am looking for a candidate with a strong record of community engagement and involvement throughout the ward who is ready to work on day one. The process I have devised is a transparent, open process that will allow any eligible resident of the 7th ward to present their qualifications and will ensure the residents of this community get a strong representative on City Council."

A website is active at <http://cityofchicago.org/ward7application>. On that site, interested candidates can download a PDF of the application, submit it online, ask questions, or even check their residency status to ensure that they are eligible candidates for the 7th ward. Beginning Monday morning, interested candidates will be able to apply, and applications will be accepted through Friday at 5 pm.

Next week, the Mayor will appoint a commission with community representation to review the applications and submit a list of three finalists for him to choose from. There will be four members on that commission, and they will be asked to forward at least three candidates to the Mayor for his consideration.

The Mayor expects to have the new Alderman sworn in by mid-February so the residents of the 7th Ward will be represented in City Council for the next meeting.

The seventh ward includes the South Shore, South Chicago, Calumet Heights, and South Deering communities.

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