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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2015

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MAYOR EMANUEL TOURS STORM DAMAGE IN ROGERS PARK

City crews working to clear roads, remove downed trees, wires

Mayor Rahm Emanuel joined Commissioner Charles Williams of the Department of Streets and Sanitation to tour storm damage in the 49th ward following last night's severe weather, which brought strong winds, lightning and hail.

"From constant communication to consistent coordination between city departments, Chicago has been responding to the aftermath of last night's storm with the full force of city resources to keep our residents safe, our street and sidewalks clear and our city on the move," said Mayor Emanuel.

City departments are in the midst of coordinating a city-wide response, which began last night after the end of the severe weather. Currently, 39 pieces of heavy equipment, 14 semi-trucks and more than 150 crew members from DSS have been deployed to respond to the 853 tree emergencies throughout the city. The department prioritizes the clearing of roads to allow emergency vehicles to pass before beginning to remove debris from residential properties. DSS will also be putting out ten garbage trucks later today to pick up any remaining tree debris, and will be working into the evening and throughout the week to clear debris. Eighteen crews from the Department of Transportation (CDOT) have been deployed to address downed light poles and street lights. The Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) is also conducting field assessments to determine the scope of the damage - both major and minor - to personal and public property

"I would like to thank the Mayor Emanuel, Commissioner Williams and all city workers who worked through the night to clear streets and power lines," said Alderman Joseph A. Moore. "We know there's more to do and appreciate their ongoing efforts. Special kudos to ward residents who came together yesterday to help clear the streets and sidewalks of downed limbs and debris."

Residents are urged to report downed trees and/or downed wires by calling 311.

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Photo Credit: Brooke Collins // City of Chicago

Photo Caption: Mayor Emanuel Tours Storm Damage in Rogers Park