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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2016

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MAYOR EMANUEL NAMES SOPHIA KING 4th WARD ALDERMAN

Appointment Comes at Conclusion of Process that Involved 18 Applicants

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today announced that Sophia King, a 30-year Chicago resident, will be the new alderman representing the City's 4th Ward.

"For almost 30 years, Sophia King has not just lived in the 4th Ward, she has worked to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives there," Mayor Emanuel said. "She has led initiatives to increase education, recreation, employment and safety, as well as quality affordable housing. She will be a tireless advocate for her constituents as she serves on City Council."

The selection of King came after a thorough process in which 18 candidates were reviewed by a five-member selection committee. Three finalists met with the Mayor last week and he made his final decision over the weekend.

"I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work. I believe the only solutions we are missing are the ones we won't work on together," King said. "I look forward to collaborating with all people who want to make a positive difference in the city that I love, and to continue to position the 4th Ward as an example of transparent, innovative and community focused work that lifts all residents. I appreciate the confidence of Mayor Rahm Emanuel and his willingness to engage a new voice.

Also on Monday, Mayor Emanuel named three aldermen to committee chairmanships. Ald. Howard Brookins will become Education chairman, while Ald. Joe Moreno will take over as Economic and Technology chairman. Finally, Ald. Pat Dowell will chair the Human Relations committee.

Ms. King will appear in front of the City Council's Rules Committee prior to a confirmation vote by the City Council on Wednesday, and then, once approved, will be sworn in as part of the full meeting of the Council.

Ms. King is the founder and president of Harriet's Daughters, a non-profit group of professional women that works collectively with peer organizations to advocate for, create and support policies and processes that secure employment and wealth creation opportunities for African-American communities.

She is also a longtime community advocate and volunteer, having served as president of the Kenwood Park Advisory Council from 2008 to 2015.

She received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Illinois, and a master's in education and social policy from Northwestern University.

Mayor Emanuel thanked the selection committee for their efforts on behalf of the City of Chicago. The members of the committee, who interviewed candidates and sent the Mayor a list of finalists, are:

Reverend Dr. Richard Tolliver, St. Edmund's Episcopal Church

Bonnie Sanchez, Near South Planning Board

Paula Wolff, resident of Kenwood

Bill Lowry, resident of Hyde Park

Alderman Michelle Harris

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