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**MAYOR EMANUEL AND ALDERMEN BURKE, BALCER AND SOLIS INTRODUCES ORDINANCE TO STRENGTHEN LAW, ENCOURAGE LANDLORDS TO INSTALL SMOKE, CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS**

Mayor Emanuel and Aldermen Burke, Balcer and Solis introduced today an important public safety ordinance that repeals a dangerous post-citation compliance defense for residential landlords who forego the installation of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

"Earlier this month, four children tragically lost their lives in a residential fire in which there were no working smoke detectors," said Mayor Emanuel. "The law as written provides no incentive for landlords to install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in their units, as they can comply after they are ticketed to avoid a fine. There is no excuse for landlords who seek to avoid the minimal cost and labor to install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and this proposed ordinance will strengthen the laws we have to enforce these important public safety provisions."

The proposed ordinance amends the building code for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to hold residential landlords accountable by eliminating the defense and creating a daily fine range for these specific life threatening violations. The ordinance would specifically repeal post-citation compliance as an affirmative defense to violations relating to smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and increased the daily minimum fine from \$300 per day to \$500 per day and sets the maximum fine at \$1,000 per day.

"In strengthening this law, the City would take a positive step in the right direction to ensure wider compliance and better protect the public," said Alderman Edward M. Burke, Chairman of the City Council Committee on Finance. "And by introducing this measure during National Fire Prevention Week we also draw further attention to this year's slogan, *Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives - Test Yours Every Month!*"

"The Department of Buildings continuously looks for new ways to enhance life safety through the enforcement of the building code. We are closing a dangerous loophole. The increased fines strengthen enforcement and encourage residential building owners and landlords to comply with the smoke and carbon monoxide detector requirements prior to receiving a violation or immediately after, rather than waiting weeks or months," said Felicia Davis, Commissioner for the Chicago Department of Buildings.

In March of 2014, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released a study which analyzed residential fire fatalities in the United States from 2007-2011. A full sixty percent (60%) of residential fire fatalities from that time period were in residential properties with no smoke

detectors or with inoperable smoke detectors. Within the sixty percent, 1,540 represented senior, adults and minors.

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