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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES JAMIE RHEE AS NEW COMMISSIONER OF THE CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION

The Chicago City Council today approved Mayor Rahm Emanuel's appointment of Jamie Rhee as the new Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA). Rhee will succeed Ginger Evans, who is stepping down on August 1 after three remarkable years leading Chicago's aviation system.

"Jamie Rhee has the right expertise, experience and energy to lead the Department of Aviation. From the start of her career as an airport information officer at O'Hare Airport to today, Jamie has distinguished herself as a hard worker, problem solver and big picture thinker who gets the job done," said Mayor Emanuel.

As Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), Rhee has led a transformation of City procurement, through increased transparency and innovation to ensure that vendors of all sizes reflect the diversity of Chicago itself. For instance, more than 20 programs and incentives have been developed to strengthen and streamline opportunities for Chicago's small, minority and women-owned businesses, as well as veteran-owned businesses and businesses operated by people with disabilities. Under Rhee's leadership, Chicago's procurement reform efforts have received national and international recognition, and Rhee has been recognized with a dozen awards from industry organizations for her contributions to public service.

"I am honored to continue my work with the City of Chicago, and am humbled by the Mayor's faith in me to lead during such an important time for Chicago's airports," said Rhee. "I look forward to a continued collaboration with the community as well as the City Council as we modernize O'Hare and Midway and showcase Chicago's leading aviation system to the world. As Chicago's airports grow and thrive, I am fully committed to ensuring that our programs continue our values of innovation as well as inclusion by bringing new opportunities for the residents of this great city."

Starting her career with the City of Chicago in 1994 as an airport information officer, Rhee has worked for the city for nearly 24 years in various roles and is currently Chicago's CPO. Rhee has a long history of mastering aviation issues, and has authored three publications on aviation law. Further, she has previously served in various roles at the CDA. From 2004-2008, she served as the General Counsel for the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), where she handled all legal matters for the $6.6 billion program, including all federal and state litigation as well as legal strategy with the Chicago Corporation Counsel, Department of Justice and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); oversaw the successful completion of the FAA's Environmental Impact Statement process; and managed the legal process and procurement for all contracts, including

commissioning the OMP's first runway project ahead of schedule and under budget.

As Chicago's CPO, Rhee is responsible for purchasing approximately $2 billion in goods and services for dozens of user departments of the City of Chicago, including the CDA, and the certification of thousands of minority, women-owned, disadvantaged business enterprises, as well as Veteran-owned businesses and businesses operated by people with disabilities and the Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) program. Rhee also played key roles under Mayor Richard M. Daley's administration, having served as a Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Daley and in various roles at the Departments of Aviation, Law, and Planning and Development.

Rhee received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University and a Juris Doctorate degree from DePaul University School of Law. She is conversant in French, Japanese and Spanish. She lives in Humboldt Park with her husband.

Rhee will begin serving in her new role on August 1.

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