



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES RESHMA SONI AS CITY COMPTROLLER

CHICAGO—The City Council today approved Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot's appointment of Reshma Soni as the new Comptroller for the City of Chicago. Soni, who has a background in governmental finance for 15 years, will lead the Department of Finance which oversees the City's accounting, financial reporting, tax enforcement, revenue collection, and the administration of employee healthcare and worker's compensation programs.

"Reshma has a deep understanding of municipal finance and will be a great addition to our finance team," said Mayor Lightfoot. "As we confront one of the City's largest financial challenges in more than a decade, Reshma's experience in creating stronger accounting controls and identifying budget reforms and efficiencies will be extremely valuable as we work to restore our financial health and build a more equitable City for our residents."

Since July, Soni has been serving as acting Comptroller where she's worked on crafting fines and fees reforms that address some of the historical inequitable policies disproportionately affecting low income communities. Prior to joining the Department of Finance, Soni was the Chief Financial Officer to the Chicago Department of Aviation where she oversaw the financial operations for one of the world's busiest airport systems with an annual operating budget exceeding \$1.6 billion. There she was involved in the negotiations of the O'Hare Airport Use and Lease Agreement, which provided the approval for the \$8.5 billion O'Hare Terminal Area Plan and Capital Improvement Program and worked on the implementation the of the financial accounting and terminal space and use protocols.

Soni's financial management experience extends beyond the City of Chicago to Cook County. As First Deputy Budget Director for the City, she managed operating, capital and grant budgets totaling \$9 billion. She also held the role as Comptroller for Cook County, where she initiated the restructuring of invoice payments to ensure quicker processing times of invoices, as well as implemented direct payment initiatives for small purchases.

"Mayor Lightfoot has made clear the important role the Department of Finance plays in helping to support the City in finding efficiencies, streamlining accounting processes,



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and improving customer service that is built on integrity, transparency and fairness,” said Soni. “It is an honor to be a part of this transformative team as we work to strengthen our economic health and expand opportunities for people all across the City.”

Soni holds a Master of Accounting and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Michigan. She is a registered Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with the State of Illinois.

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