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**CITY COUNCIL PASSES ORDINANCE TO REFORM ZONING RULES THAT
PROMOTES PUBLIC HEALTH AND IMPROVES AIR QUALITY**

Ordinance moves Chicago toward cleaner air, smarter land use policies and a more equitable economy

CHICAGO – The Chicago City Council passed an ordinance today to improve air quality by restricting where businesses that emit air pollution may build new facilities. The changes to the Zoning Code impose new, independent land-use reviews over the opening or expansion of facilities that release air pollutants, such as incinerators, distribution and logistics facilities and recycling operations. Residents can feel confident that they will have a meaningful voice in the placement of intensive manufacturing sites in or near their neighborhoods. The ordinance, developed in collaboration with elected officials, environmental advocates and industry groups, is another step in this administration's efforts to strike a reasonable balance between securing environmental equity for our most sensitive communities and residents and promoting industrial development and job growth throughout the City.

“To establish an economy that works for all Chicagoans and puts us on a path to equitable growth, we must ensure polluting industries do not unfairly burden certain neighborhoods with the false choice of jobs or dirty air,” said Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot. “I am confident that the City of Chicago can partner with residents, environmental advocates and the business community to ensure that we can create good, high-paying jobs while also mitigating the effects of air pollution on our neighborhoods.”

The major changes in the Air Quality & Zoning Ordinance include:

- Introduction of site plan review criteria for the various industrial uses subject to this ordinance.
- Increased notice requirements related to special uses and
- Addressing retail activity in manufacturing and planned manufacturing districts for which the general public are not allowed on premises.
- Subjecting industrial uses to the Sustainable Develop Policy of the Department of Planning and Development.



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- Requiring that certain businesses, including intensive manufacturers, recyclers and freight/logistics facilities, undergo new and additional review and public comment before being approved to open a facility. This review will help the City balance its environmental protections with a growing economy and expanding businesses.
- Establishing planned development review for major new industrial uses. Planned development review imposes additional scrutiny and public comment, as well as City Council approval, for the most intensive industrial and manufacturing uses.

“The 12th Ward is home to the historic Central Manufacturing District (CMD), a strong economic asset in our city,” said Alderman Cardenas (12th Ward), Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy. “The CMD presents an opportunity to reimagine industrial development. This ordinance demonstrates our commitment to inclusive land-use planning and equitable economic growth. While these businesses and industries are vital to our economic vitality, by strengthening industrial permitting we are ensuring that there is a thoughtful process that examines the impact of new facilities on surrounding areas, making people and their health the top priority.”

“The 10th Ward is known for being a heavy manufacturing area, but it is also a great place to live,” said Alderman Sadlowski-Garza (10th Ward). “I am glad that we are now taking a strong stance on where new manufacturing facilities will be located in our city and putting the health of residents first.”

As the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) identified in its first-ever Air Quality and Health Report, Chicago continues to face below-standard air quality for ozone and fine particulate matter. Concentrations of fine particulate matter are highest near the source emitting the pollutant. As a result, the City must make sure its land is used in a way that makes sure that new polluting uses are not placed near the residents who are most vulnerable to air pollution.

“Addressing air pollution in Chicago is one of my team’s top priorities, particularly in communities with higher rates of chronic disease and social factors that make it harder for people to access care,” said Department of Public Health (CDPH) Commissioner Allison Arwady, M.D. “The Air Quality and Health Report makes clear that Chicago’s residents, especially those in the West and Southeast Sides, face inequitable burdens from air pollution and this ordinance is an important step in ensuring that, one day, no Chicagoan will unfairly suffer from the effects from air pollution.”



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In addition, Mayor Lightfoot has committed to developing an ordinance to address the cumulative burden of pollution that disproportionately affects certain neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, Black/Latinx residents, and preexisting health vulnerabilities. The City will also strengthen its air quality enforcement and inspection processes, review the other operating rules for industrial businesses, and partner with community representatives and environmental leaders to further strengthen the City's air quality protections.

The ordinance passed today is another step in Mayor Lightfoot's larger effort to improve air quality in Chicago. In addition to releasing the Air Quality and Health Report, Mayor Lightfoot has established new, rigorous rules for large recycling facilities and will continue to develop new policies that will allow for economic growth, quality jobs, and improved air quality. For more information about the City's work to address environmental concerns, please visit chicago.gov/CDPH.

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