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ORDINANCE TO EXPAND "CHICAGOFIRST" LOCAL BUSINESS BIDDING PREFERENCE TO CITY CONTRACTS PASSES CITY COUNCIL
New Policies Will Reward Local Businesses for Operating and Providing Jobs in Chicago

Further improving the economic climate for Chicago businesses, the Chicago City Council passed Mayor Emanuel's "ChicagoFirst" procurement ordinance today, which create a local manufacturing incentive and expand a bidding preference given to Chicago-based businesses on City contracts. This will benefit both the manufacturing and service industries in Chicago by giving them preference over out-of-town companies that submit equivalent bids. The ordinance was co-sponsored by 27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett.

"City Hall should not be a barrier to Chicago's local businesses' growth and ability to succeed in this economy. When Chicago companies get business in Chicago – they stay in Chicago, and so do the jobs they provide," said Mayor Emanuel. "If everything else is equal, it is in the best interests of taxpayers to award a contract to a local company that has chosen to run its business here, employ Chicagoans and contribute tax revenue to the City."

The City of Chicago awards nearly $2 billion in contracts every year for goods and services that are necessary to run the City. The new change will allow a local preference when all other factors are equal and will not exceed a 2 percent preference during the bid evaluation process.

The Mayor first discussed his "ChicagoFirst" proposal during his campaign for mayor. The preferences will be added into the bid application documents provided by the City with the bidder being required to submit an affidavit concerning the content of the goods that they will be supplying, or if they are a Chicago business. This is very similar to the current process for bids for local construction companies bidding on City projects, which are already given a local preference.

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