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**MAYOR EMANUEL, ALDERMAN BURNETT, ALDERMAN PAWAR AND THE CHICAGO
FOR ALL COALITION INTRODUCE MORATORIUM ON SRO AND RESIDENTIAL HOTEL
CONVERSIONS**

*Moratorium Will Stem Loss of Affordable Housing Units While a Balanced Proposal is
Developed*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Alderman Walter Burnett, Alderman Ameya Pawar and the Chicago for All Coalition today introduced an ordinance that would establish a 6-month moratorium on the conversion and demolition of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing and residential hotels in Chicago. Up to 6,000 units are at risk due to the conversion of SROs and residential hotels into market rate housing. The moratorium will preserve current SROs and residential hotels while the City works with property owners, developers, nonprofits, and advocates to develop a new, permanent ordinance that balances the need for economic growth with affordable housing options.

"There is a critical balance between development that will help spur Chicago's economy into the future and providing safe and affordable housing for its residents. This ordinance allows us the time to fully evaluate what a balanced proposal will look like," said Mayor Emanuel. "We will continue to work with community leaders and advocates to come to an agreement that takes both of these important aspects of our city's growth into consideration."

The moratorium ordinance will prohibit the issuance of any City building permits that would result in the demolition or conversion of SROs and residential hotels. Specifically, it will prevent the issuance of permits allowing conversion of all or part of an SRO or residential hotel to a commercial, industrial, or other non-residential or residential use. The moratorium will also prohibit any action that reduces the number of units, whether through complete or partial demolition of the building, or by combining two or more units.

“The people who live in SROs may be invisible to most of Chicago, but they are citizens of Chicago and deserve the same chance at a roof over their heads as anyone else in the city,” said Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr.

SROs and residential hotels, which are generally acknowledged as the housing of last resort for some of the city’s poorest and most vulnerable residents, have declined in number dramatically over the past five years. In the past three years, at least four SRO hotels have closed, including the Belair Hotel, Sheffield House and the Chateau Hotel, leaving close to 600 residents displaced and with no viable housing alternatives.

"I look forward to partnering with the Mayor, my fellow sponsors, property owners, and ONE Northside to develop a SRO preservation ordinance which balances the interests of property owners with the City's goal of preserving all types of affordable housing; and I applaud the Mayor's commitment to preserve SRO units--for many this is a housing of last resort," said Alderman Ameya Pawar.

Since 2008, 30 of the City’s licensed SROs have closed and only 5,000 to 6,000 units remain in the City’s 73 licensed SROs. According to the Chicago for All Coalition, since 2011, more than 2,000 SROs and residential hotel rooms have been converted by developers into higher-priced residential buildings.

John Bartlett, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Tenants' Organization, stated, "SROs are a vital part of the overall affordable housing picture in Chicago. They are often the first step out of homelessness, and we can't afford to lose any more SROs to market rate development than we already have."

“SROs are a vital part of our city’s housing stock. It is often the last type of housing someone can affordably access before they fall into homelessness, said Eithne McMenamin, Associate Director of Policy at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. “Considering how many units we’ve lost in just the past few years, it is critical that we work together to preserve the SROs that remain.”

“Losing SRO housing has devastating consequences for the disabled, working poor, and others who call these units home. We must not lose more units. We must make sure all people have access to clean, safe and affordable housing," added Adelaide Meyers, a former tenant of the now-shuttered Norman Hotel in Uptown and member of ONE: Northside, the organization leading the Chicago for All Coalition.

The Chicago for All Coalition is headed by ONE Northside, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. The City, Alderman Burnett, Alderman Pawar and the Chicago for All Coalition developed the moratorium ordinance to stem further displacement of the City’s poorest and most vulnerable residents while a more permanent and balanced solution is developed.

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