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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ALDERMEN ANNOUNCE SUPPORT OF FREE PARKING ON SUNDAYS IN  
PARKING METER PACKAGE INTRODUCED TO COUNCIL YESTERDAY**

Aldermen Note that Free Parking Will Provide Needed Relief to Neighborhood Residents,  
Stimulate Visits to Local Shopping Areas

May 9, 2013 (Chicago) -- Twenty-four Chicago Aldermen, including Alderman Carrie Austin, Chairman of the City Council Committee on the Budget and Government Operations, and Alderman Edward Burke, Chairman of the City Council Committee on Finance, came out today in support of Mayor Emanuel's proposal to improve the Parking Meter deal by providing free parking on Sundays for their neighborhoods and local business districts. The twenty-three Aldermen who endorsed free Sundays include: Alderman Leslie Hairston (Ward 5), Alderman Natashia Holmes (Ward 7), Alderman Michelle Harris (Ward 8), Alderman Anthony Beale (Ward 9), Alderman James Balcer (Ward 11), Alderman George Cardenas (Ward 12), Alderman Marty Quinn (Ward 13), Alderman Edward Burke (Ward 14), Alderman JoAnn Thompson (Ward 16), Alderman Latasha Thomas (Ward 17), Alderman Howard Brookins, Jr. (Ward 21), Alderman Michael Zalewski (Ward 23), Alderman Michael Chandler (Ward 24), Alderman Daniel Solis (Ward 25), Alderman Roberto Maldonado (Ward 26), Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr. (Ward 27), Alderman Jason Ervin (Ward 28), Alderman Deborah Graham (Ward 29), Alderman Ariel Reboyras (Ward 30), Alderman Dick Mell (Ward 33), Alderman Carrie Austin (Ward 34),

Alderman Emma Mitts (Ward 37), Alderman Timothy Cullerton (Ward 38), and Alderman Patrick O'Connor (Ward 40).

“Not only is this a \$1 billion win for the taxpayers, but our neighborhoods will get a much deserved reprieve from these meters that will allow our families and their loved ones a day of enjoyment, shopping and visiting with each other. The Mayor and his team worked hard – very hard – and these changes will help immensely,” said Chairman Austin.

“Free Sundays are a great thing for the families in my ward who want to enjoy their Sundays, worship at their church and enjoy what their community has to offer them without worrying about feeding the meter or getting a parking ticket,” said Alderman Harris. “We all deserve a day of rest from these meters. That’s how it used to be and it’s how it should be now.”

“We all know that this deal should have never been done in the first place. And the Mayor fought and got a day of rest for our residents and local businesses. Free Sundays will help people visit our communities to enjoy all that they have to offer,” said Alderman Hairston.

“We all realize that no one can ever turn this bad deal into a good one, but my constituents are glad that the Mayor took the opportunity to provide them a little relief from it. This isn’t his deal, but he at least tried to fix it. We could not live with it as is for the next 71 years. Free Sundays will be good for our businesses and families,” said Alderman Cardenas.

“On a Sunday, families should pray together, not pay parking meters together,” said Alderman Mitts.

“While this is still a bad deal, I have heard from many residents in the City who are grateful to have one day off. Mayor Emanuel is working hard to make the parking meter company understand that our residents need a break on Sundays. My hope is that this change will encourage our communities to shop more locally since they can park for free on Sundays,” said Alderman Solis.

“Your time on Sunday belongs to a higher power, and that higher power is not a parking meter company,” said Alderman Brookins.

“Sundays should be a day for family, free from work and the burdens of the rest of the week – and that should include feeding the parking meters in our neighborhoods,” said Alderman Zalewski.

“When you are in church on a Sunday, you should be able to reflect on more important things than on whether you put enough money in the parking meter,” said Alderman Ervin.

The aldermen noted that the proposed changes will not only provide for free parking in Chicago neighborhoods on Sundays, but a new convenient pay-by-cell option and a settlement of outstanding legal disputes that will eliminate more than \$1 billion in potential liability.

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