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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES APPOINTMENT OF JOHN T. HOOKER AS CHAIR OF THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD

City Council today approved the appointment today of John T. Hooker as the new Chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Board.

"With John Hooker's long history of civic and community building in Chicago, he will play a crucial role in helping to lead CHA as the agency works to meet the ongoing affordable housing needs for families throughout the city," said Mayor Emanuel.

Hooker held various executive roles during his 44-year tenure at ComEd, most recently the Executive Vice President of Legislative and External Affairs, where he was directly responsible for managing all state legislative initiatives for the organization. He also managed several business units at ComEd to include industrial relations, marketing, regulatory affairs and governmental affairs.

Hooker has also served on a number of boards including the Peoples Consumer Cooperative, which provides low-cost housing for the elderly; the Safer Foundation, a non-profit organization helping former offenders build productive lives; Junior Achievement, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring young people; and The African American Legacy Initiative, a non-profit organization that works to improve the quality of life of the residents of Chicago communities.

Hooker will oversee the 10-member board as Chairman; the members serve five-year terms.

As part of CHA's strategic initiative, Plan Forward, CHA continues to build strong, vibrant communities throughout Chicago and to increase affordable housing opportunities for low-income families of this great city. CHA has created 9,000 new housing opportunities for Chicago residents since Mayor Emanuel took office. By the end of 2015 CHA plans to provide affordable housing vouchers to more than 43,000 families in need, an increase of more than 8,000 since 2011. The agency's key mission is to help communities thrive and low-income residents increase their potential for long-term economic success and a high quality of life.

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