Contact: Dick Simpson, 312-413-3780 (o & cell) For Immediate Release

or Tom Gradel 773-561-7334 o, 773-742-4996 (cell) ( 12 - 9 - 2014 )

**Mayor Emanuel's City Council Support**

**Slips Slightly in Past 18 Months**

Mayor Rahm Emanuel's exceptionally high support from Chicago's City Council slipped only slightly in the past 18 months compared to his first two years in office, according to a new study of aldermanic voting patterns. For his entire three and a half years in office Emanuel had more total control over the council than his predecessor Richard M. Daley had in his last term in office.

For the new study, Dick Simpson, a political science professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and UIC graduate researchers Beyza Buyuker and Melissa Mouritsen, analyzed 37 divided roll call votes since the City Council met on April 10, 2013. Simpson and Mouritsen previously analyzed 30 divided roll call votes in the first half of Emanuel's term. They released that study in April, 2013. By definition, divided roll call votes are those on which at least one alderman opposed the Mayor's position.

According to the study, the average level of aldermanic support for Mayor Emanuel was 89% on all divided roll call votes from April 2013 through November of this year, which was a small decrease from the average of 93% in his first two years. For Emanuel’s entire term in office, the average level of support is 90%.

"Although his support has slipped slightly, Mayor Emanuel still presides over a very compliant 'rubber stamp' city council,” said Simpson who served as 44th Ward Alderman from 1971 to 1979. "Despite louder and more organized opposition, Emanuel still hasn't lost any Council votes," Simpson said.

Since May, 2011, when Mayor Emanuel took office, eight of the 50 aldermen voted to support his position 100% of the time and 29 aldermen voted with him from 90% to 99% of the time.

Among those who voted the least often to support Mayor Emanuel's positions were 45th Ward Aldermen John Arena, 43%; 2nd Ward Alderman Robert Fioretti, 45%; 32nd Ward Alderman Scott Waguespack, 54%, and 36th Ward Alderman Nicholas Sposato, 66%.

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All four are members of the Progressive Reform Caucus of City Council. This caucus also includes Aldermen Leslie Hairston (5th Ward) 78% support for Emanuel; Ricardo Munoz (22nd), 79%; Roderick Sawyer (6th), 85%; Toni Foulkes (15th), 87%; and Ameya Pawar (47th) 93%. The average level of support for Emanuel by members of this caucus was 70%.

Alderman Ameya Pawar (47th) is also a member of a second caucus, The Paul Douglas Alliance. Its members, which had a average level of support of 90.9% for Mayor Emanuel, include Brendan Reilly (42nd), Michele Smith (43rd), Pat Dowell (3rd), William Burns (4th), James Cappleman (46th), Harry Osterman (48th), Proco Joe Moreno (1st), Rey Colon (35th), and Joseph Moore (49th).

"With the upcoming city elections fast approaching, our report today on Mayor Emanuel's Rubber Stamp City Council is especially timely," Simpson said. "Chicago voters will be able to see how their alderman voted on specific issues and will be able to determine their alderman's overall support for the Mayor's positions."

Since Mayor Emanuel took office there were 67 divided roll call votes, but only nine issues drew more than six dissenting votes. In the last 18 months, two issues drew double digit opposition. On November 13, 2013, Emanuel's supporters moved to block the Progressive Caucus' attempt to place a referendum on the November ballot asking for an elected school board in Chicago. Although the administration's effort to block the elected school board referendum succeeded, a total of 15 aldermen voted against the Mayor's position. At the same Council meeting, members of Progressive Caucus proposed to increase the amount of TIF funds that would be distributed back to the taxing bodies such as the Chicago Public Schools, the Park District , and the City of Chicago. The proposal failed but it was supported by 11 Aldermen.

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The report, *Rahm Emanuel's Rubber Stamp City Council,* is available on line at [chicagopolitics.uic.edu](http://chicagopolitics.uic.edu)

and at http://www.aldertrack.com/reports

Aldertrack.com also provides comprehensive up-to-date information on 250 plus Aldermanic candidates running in all 50 wards for election to Chicago's City Council