



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **RMG STATEMENT ON CITY OF CHICAGO'S DECISION TO DENY FINAL PERMIT FOR SOUTHSIDE RECYCLING**

CHICAGO — Reserve Management Group, the parent company of Southside Recycling, today issued the following statement regarding the decision by the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health to deny a final permit, thus preventing Southside Recycling from beginning operations:

"We have built the most environmentally conscious metal recycling facility in the country, but politicians and government officials have ignored the facts and instead were cowed by persistent false narratives and misinformation aimed at demonizing our business. What should have been an apolitical permitting process was hijacked by a small but vocal opposition that long ago made clear they would unconditionally oppose this facility, facts and science be damned. Politics, not environmental or public health protection, is the only reason that the city denied Southside Recycling's permit to operate.

Experts repeatedly determined that Southside Recycling would not threaten public health or environmental justice efforts. When the Illinois EPA completed its exhaustive review process and issued our state air permit in June 2020, its efforts were lauded by career professionals at the U.S. EPA for taking a rigorous approach to community engagement and environmental justice considerations. And the City's own health experts, using intentionally inflated parameters to overstate the effects of the operation, *still* concluded that the facility poses no risk of adverse health effects above the benchmarks defined by the U.S. EPA.

We will continue to pursue all avenues to challenge this decision, including pressing our lawsuit against the city, which will likely result in taxpayers being on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. Aside from the litigation, this decision is a clear message to any businesses or industries that might be considering expansion or investment in Chicago: the city is not a reliable partner and is not open for business. Chicago has loudly stated that politics – not signed agreements, its own laws and regulations, nor actual protection of human health and the environment – is the ultimate consideration in all matters."

### **ABOUT RMG / Southside Recycling**

Formed in 1991, Reserve Management Group (RMG) is a family of distinct but related businesses, including Southside Recycling, involved in recycling, scrap metal processing (ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals, electronic scrap), material handling, equipment sales, and property management, operating in 10 states. More information can be found at [www.reserve-group.com](http://www.reserve-group.com) and at <https://www.southside-recycling.com>.

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