



### **About the Speaker**

Mayor Rahm Emanuel recently appointed Shannon Andrews as the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) for the City of Chicago. The Government Contractors Business Forum (GCBF) submitted a strong letter of recommendation in support of the Mayor's appointment to the City Council. Subsequently, the City Council approved Ms. Andrews as the City's new CPO. The City, through the Department of Procurement Services (DPS), purchases more than \$2 billion dollars in goods and services annually. As the contracting authority for the City, DPS administers an open bid and solicitation process that promotes fairness, competition and best value. Under the dynamic leadership of Ms. Andrews, DPS remains committed to diversity, transparency, efficiency and innovation, as well as to expanding the resources, programs and incentives for small, minority and women-owned businesses to participate on City contracts. Her appointment as the City's new CPO marks her return to City government where she previously served in various roles at DPS from 2007 to 2012. "It is an honor to be chosen to lead the Department of Procurement Services which has been a national leader in procurement reform," said Ms. Andrews.

Since 2012, Shannon Andrews has served as the CPO of Cook County, appointed by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. In this role, Ms. Andrews was responsible for purchasing more than \$1 billion in goods and services for more than thirty County agencies. She created the Cook County Annual Buying Plan and implemented effective strategies to streamline, standardize and improve the County's procurement cycle times by more than 30 percent. She was also responsible for spearheading efforts to strengthen County contracting opportunities for local and small businesses. She created workshops to provide business tools and resources to vendors who were interested in doing business with Cook County. She also established and improved the County's incentive and earned credit programs to support local vendors. Prior to her appointment as the CPO for Cook County, she served as the Director of Cook County's Office of Contract Compliance, where she managed the County's certification of minority, women, veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprises, and monitored their participation on County contracts.

The Government Contractors Business Forum is delighted to welcome Ms. Andrews back to the GCBF as the featured speaker at our Sneak Preview of the 2019 Program Series. She follows an impressive roster of prior opening program speakers, including Mayor Rahm Emanuel, former CPO Jamie Rhee (who now heads the City's Department of Aviation) and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. Shannon Andrews has been one of our most popular GCBF meeting speakers over the past 10 years. Her presentations are always informative, thoughtful and compelling. She has made every effort throughout her distinguished governmental career to ensure that businesses and contractors in all industries, including small, minority and women-owned businesses, receive the necessary information, resources and support they need to successfully compete for government contracting opportunities. Her thorough knowledge of the procurement, bidding, contracting and compliance regulations, policies and programs of the City and County, as well as, her long-standing dedication to public service and strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, have been extraordinary and beyond reproach. Because of Shannon Andrews and other key government administrators, the GCBF membership, has remained well-informed about all aspects of City, County, State and federal government procurement.

Back by popular demand, Shannon Andrews promises to lead us in another informative, engaging and candid discussion about: "New Procurement Developments and Opportunities to Partner with the City in 2019." In addition, GCBF Chairman Anita Ponder will provide an overview of the 2019 GCBF Program Series. This is a special program and networking opportunity that government contractors do not want to miss!