

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE
OF JESSE J. BLACKMON, SR.

WHEREAS, Jesse J. Blackmon, Sr., family man and fierce community advocate, passed away April 4, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of Jesse's passing by the Honorable Monique Scott, Alderwoman of the 24th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Jesse was born on May 8, 1930 in Jackson, Mississippi to Almeta Knox, and while growing up in Jackson with his younger brother, Thomas Knox Jr., Jesse accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age; and

WHEREAS, As a young man, Jesse relocated to Chicago, where he met and married the love of his life, Ida Mae Estes, on December 18, 1948; and

WHEREAS, Upon moving to Chicago, Jesse became an active member of his community, eventually becoming a precinct captain in his beloved 24th Ward, leading voter outreach and registration efforts, often by going door to door to understand and address voter concerns; and

WHEREAS, Jesse's dedication to his community was even recognized by former Vice President Walter Mondale; and

WHEREAS, During a time when many Black people were unable to rise to political power in Chicago, Jesse served the City from 1956 until his retirement in 1989; during his career, Jesse was a part of history, working alongside the first woman elected Mayor, Jane Byrne, and later working closely with the City's first African American Mayor, Harold Washington; and

WHEREAS, Under Mayor Washington, Jesse was appointed to the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Services; as Deputy Commissioner, Jesse supervised a taskforce assigned with protecting Chicagoans from acts of consumer fraud and deceptive business practices; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his love for family and politics, Jesse had a passion for the smooth sounds of jazz and blues music; and

WHEREAS, But Jesse's ultimate passion was his family; when his wife Ida Mae became ill, Jesse was her primary caretaker until her death, and every year, he opened his home and hosted Thanksgiving and Christmas, allowing his family to enjoy their fellowship in love; and

WHEREAS, Jesse was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Almeta Knox; his loving wife, Ida Mae Blackmon; his brother, Thomas Knox Jr.; four of his loving children, Sheila Williams, Jesse Blackmon, Jr. ("Chuckie"), Beverly Edwards ("BJ"), and Robert Blackmon, Sr. ("Bobby"); and lifelong friends, Nathan Cooper, Jimmy Walker, Mary Reynolds, and Leonard Reed, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, As the patriarch of his family, Jesse leaves to cherish his memory one son, Anthony Blackmon (Chandra Blackmon); one daughter, Patricia Blackmon; brother-in-law, Monroe Estes; nephew, Ronald Knox; niece, Jacquelyne Smith; five generations of grandchildren, including two that he helped to raise – Kimyatta Blackmon-Douglas and Sierra Smith; and a host of grand nieces, nephews, other relatives, and beloved friends including, Mr. Love Davis; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this nineteenth day of April 2023, do hereby extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Jesse J. Blackmon, Sr.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Jesse J. Blackmon, Sr. as a sign of our honor and respect.

MONIQUE SCOTT
Alderman, 24th Ward