



Office of the Chicago City
Clerk



R2012-611

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	6/6/2012
Sponsor(s):	Graham, Deborah L. (29)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late lola McGowan
Committee(s) Assignment:	

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the passing on May 24, 2012, at age 75, of Lola McGowan, a dedicated public servant and community activist known by many as the "First Lady of the West Side"; and

WHEREAS, Born on September 8, 1936, daughter of Ernestine Martin, Lola McGowan was a lifelong resident of Chicago. She graduated from Farragut High School in 1954 before earning her bachelor's degree in inner-city studies from Northeastern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, After starting her career at the precinct level of local government, Lola McGowan had a long and distinguished career in public service, serving as the 29th Ward Committeeman, Vice Chairman of the Illinois State Democratic Party, Vice Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and as a Chicago Park District Commissioner. She also served on the Board of the Cook County Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, Lola McGowan served the City of Chicago as Director of Consumer Services for 6 years, during which time she headed the city's Model Cities Community Services program; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated mother of three, Lola McGowan cared deeply for the well-being of all Chicago children, for whom she developed an innovative classroom coloring-book to educate young people about nutrition and healthy food shopping. Her book was adopted by the Federal Food Program and used to educate children statewide; and

WHEREAS, Always a strong advocate for her community, Lola McGowan was active through her membership with the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs and the Chicago Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and through her work for the Chicago Council on Fine Arts development program for the Austin area; and

WHEREAS, Lola McGowan was preceded in death by her husband, Adam "Donald" McGowan; her mother, Ernestine Martin; and her sister, Anna Pearson; and

WHEREAS, Lola McGowan is survived by her children, Rhonda, Gregory, and Allison; her sister, Laverne Schaffer; her grandchildren, Jason, Ashley, and Whitney; and by many nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Although Lola McGowan will be greatly missed by her family, friends and colleagues, her memory will live in their hearts forever; now, therefore,

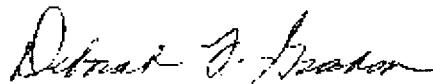
BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this sixth day of June, 2012, do hereby honor the life and memory of Lola McGowan, and extend our heartfelt condolences to her family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Lola McGowan as a sign of our sympathy and good wishes.

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Deborah Graham
Alderman, 29th Ward