



# City of Chicago



R2021-986

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:**

9/14/2021

**Sponsor(s):**

Lightfoot (Mayor)  
Rodriguez Sanchez (33)  
O'Shea (19)  
Sigcho-Lopez (25)  
Hadden (49)  
Dowell (3)  
Waguespack (32)  
Rodriguez (22)  
Ramirez-Rosa (35)  
Martin (47)  
Silverstein (50)  
Ervin (28)  
Vasquez, Jr. (40)  
Gardiner (45)  
Reilly (42)  
Sposato (38)  
Cappleman (46)  
Smith (43)  
Moore (17)  
Sadlowski Garza (10)  
Burnett (27)  
Nugent (39)  
Curtis (18)  
Tunney (44)

**Type:**

Resolution

**Title:**

Congratulations extended to Kennedy-King College for being ranked among top ten community colleges nationwide by Forbes magazine

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

503P



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT  
MAYOR

September 14, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Rodriguez-Sanchez, O'Shea, Sigcho-Lopez, Hadden, Dowell, Waguespack, Rodriguez, Ramirez-Rosa, Martin, Silverstein, Ervin, Vasquez, Gardiner, Reilly, Sposato, Cappleman, Smith, Moore, Sadlowski Garza, Burnett, Nugent, Curtis and Tunney, a resolution congratulating the Kennedy-King College administrators and students for being ranked among the top 10 community colleges in the nation by Forbes magazine.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lori E. Lightfoot". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "F".  
Mayor

## **RESOLUTION**

**Whereas,** In its March 2021 issue, the prestigious Forbes business magazine reported that Kennedy-King College ranked among this nation's top ten community colleges and number one in the state of Illinois; and

**Whereas,** The rankings were drawn from 839 community colleges in the United States that were fully accredited, enrolled at least 1,000 students and offered two-year associate degree programs as well as the commiserate credentials and certification; and

**Whereas,** Academic Influence, the company commissioned to conduct the rankings, used new artificial intelligence techniques to develop its first-ever rating system to determine the nation's best community colleges that are an integral part of the whole process by which Americans learn and acquire skills. These rankings should be a welcomed resource for people seeking options for post-secondary education; and

**Whereas,** Juan Salgado, Chancellor of City Colleges of Chicago, stated "A quality, affordable community college education puts our students on the path to upward mobility and contributes to a more inclusive economy. Kennedy-King College embodies black excellence and success."; and

**Whereas,** Dr. Gregory Thomas, PhD, stated, "As President (of Kennedy-King College), I am humbled by this honor and for the world to learn more about the dynamic, innovative, and supportive faculty and staff that I work beside every day. Our work goes beyond the classroom and extends to the community that we serve, supporting them on their way to success." Kennedy-King College serves the greatest number of African American students among the community colleges that qualified for the ranking; and

**Whereas,** For many students, community colleges are an affordable alternative to the traditional four-year institutions of higher learning and their best chance to earn a degree or credential. They also provide valuable retraining opportunities for many older adults that seek to change or advance their own careers. These institutions are essential not only for personal opportunities they provide but also for the nation's economic prosperity. United States President Joe Biden is seeking to provide free community college as an essential element of rebuilding that economy...a policy that is strongly advocated by First Lady Dr. Jill Biden who is a community college instructor; and

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered this 14<sup>h</sup> Day of September, 2021, do hereby salute the students, staff, and administration of Kennedy-King College on its Top Ten national ranking and Number One ranking in the state of Illinois.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to Dr. Gregory Thomas, President of Kennedy-King College and Juan Salgado, Chancellor of City Colleges of Chicago.