



# City of Chicago



R2014-6

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 1/15/2014

**Sponsor(s):** Burke (14)  
Balcer (11)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Call for rejection of proposal naming the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives headquarters in Washington in honor of Elliot Ness

**Committee(s) Assignment:** Committee on Public Safety

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, United States Senators Mark Kirk and Dick Durbin have proposed naming the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives headquarters in Washington, D.C. in honor of Chicago native and Prohibition-era crime fighter Eliot Ness, the leader of the legendary Untouchables; and

**WHEREAS**, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this proposal by Alderman Edward M. Burke; and

**WHEREAS**, Eliot Ness served as the Chief Investigator of the Prohibition Bureau for Chicago in 1934 and became famous for his efforts to enforce prohibition in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Jonathan Eig, author of *Get Capone: The Secret Plot that Captured America's Most Wanted Gangster*, has voiced opposition to the proposal, saying that Ness fell short of his legendary reputation; and

**WHEREAS**, Jonathan Eig argues that Eliot Ness did not deserve the credit for putting mobster Al Capone behind bars and in fact played no role in the prosecution of Al Capone; and

**WHEREAS**, Eliot Ness reportedly suffered from bouts of heavy drinking and had a checkered career after leaving the federal government; and


**WHEREAS**, During the 1930s, Eliot Ness served as the Public Safety Director of Cleveland and was compelled to resign after a late-night drunken driving incident and a high-profile failure to solve a series of bloody murders; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1947 Eliot Ness ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Cleveland; and

**WHEREAS**, Eliot Ness suffered from a number of setbacks in his personal life and made a number of forays into the corporate world which failed; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this fifteenth day of January, 2014, do hereby call upon federal officials to reject the proposal of naming the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives headquarters in Washington, D.C. in honor of Elliot Ness; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

James Balcer<sup>1</sup>   
**Alderman - 14<sup>th</sup> Ward**