



# City of Chicago



R2021-829

## Office of the City Clerk Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 7/21/2021  
**Sponsor(s):** Osterman (48)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Tribute to late Reverend Ruben Cruz  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

July 21 , 2021

Resolution: Reverend Ruben Cruz

WHEREAS, The members of the City Council of Chicago wish to recognize the many accomplishments and the passing of Rev. Ruben Cruz; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Cruz departed this present life on Wednesday, May 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The City Council has been notified of his passing by The Honorable Harry Osterman, Alderman of the 48th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Cruz served as the pastor of Chicago's First Spanish Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, starting in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Beyond his religious work, Rev. Cruz is known for his involvement in the media, starting his career in the 1960s with WMAQ-TV's Everyman Program of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Cruz also worked as a producer of WLS-TV's "Oiga Amigo" show to address the needs of Chicago's Hispanic community, a co-host of the show "Ayuda" on WCIU-TV, and generally as a spokesperson for the city's Hispanic community; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Cruz broke barriers as a columnist for the Chicago Sun Times the 1970s, writing the first Spanish column of its kind in a major metropolitan newspaper in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Cruz has been recognized for his contributions toward Chicago's Hispanic community, earning the Governor's Citation of the Chicago Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his media programming regarding Chicago's Hispanic-American community; and

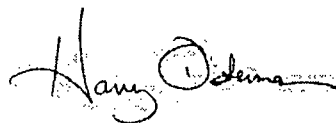
WHEREAS, Rev. Cruz was instrumental with the CAPS Program, Chicago's Alternative Policing Strategy, promoting the program through his media work; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Cruz served on numerous Boards of Directors, including the Advisory Board of the Chicago Area Literacy and Reading Centers, the Media Commission of the Council of Hispanic American Ministries in the USA, the Chicago UNICEF Committee, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Cruz also worked closely with the government, serving as an appointed member of the City of Chicago's Board of Health under Mayor Richard J. Daley, a member of the Governor of Puerto Rico's Advisory Council on Mainland Puerto Rican Affairs, and as the Advisor on Latin American Affairs to the Secretary of State under President Carter; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this day of July 21, 2021 do hereby express our sorrow on the death of Rev. Cruz, and extend to his family and friends our deepest sympathy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Rev. Cruz as a token of our sympathy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Osterman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H" and "O".

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Harry Osterman  
Alderman, 48<sup>th</sup> Ward