



# City of Chicago



R2015-350

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 5/6/2015

**Sponsor(s):** Emanuel (Mayor)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Congratulations extended to Alderman Natasha Holmes for dedicated service to residents of 7th Ward

**Committee(s) Assignment:**



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

May 6, 2015

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a congratulatory resolution regarding our departing colleague  
Alderman Natasha Holmes.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor

# A resolution

adopted by **The City Council**  
of the **City of Chicago, Illinois**



Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on MAY 6, 2015

**Whereas** The Members of this Chamber are proud to congratulate our friend and colleague, Alderman Natasha Holmes, on her two years of dedicated and outstanding service to the people of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward and the City of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Born and raised in Florida, Alderman Holmes earned a bachelor of science degree from Alabama State University's College of Education in 1997; a master's degree in community planning from Auburn University's College of Architecture, Design and Construction in 2000; and a juris doctor degree and certificate in environmental and energy law from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2011. She was admitted to the Illinois Bar in November 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Appointed to the City Council on February 13, 2013 to fill a vacant aldermanic seat, Alderman Holmes was Mayor Rahm Emanuel's first City Council appointment. After filling out an on-line application for the position, and being evaluated, along with 65 other applicants, by a blue-ribbon committee charged with responsibility for identifying the best candidate for the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward job, Alderman Holmes emerged as the winner; and

**WHEREAS**, A newcomer to Chicago politics, Alderman Holmes brought to her new position a passion for public service and a wealth of experience in urban planning and related public policy fields; and

**WHEREAS**, Alderman Holmes began her professional career in 2000 working as a transportation planning liaison with the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, where she prepared, programmed and maintained a \$64 million, multi-year, sub-regional transportation improvement program. She then worked for three-and-a-half years as a senior transportation associate for the Metropolitan Planning Council, and for almost seven years as a policy advisor for the Illinois Department of Transportation, where she coordinated transit and rail initiatives, programs and policies, interpreted federal rules, developed policies for state administration of federally funded programs, and applied for and managed federal transportation grants; and

WHEREAS, Immediately prior to her appointment as alderman, Alderman Holmes worked as a project manager in public outreach and government relations for Metro Strategies Inc., a Glen Ellyn, Illinois-based planning, policy and public affairs consulting firm. She also served on the external advisory board for the Institute for Environmental Science and Policy at the University of Illinois in Chicago, and as a community representative to the local school council of the Adam Clayton Powell Paideia Community Academy, which is located in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood; and

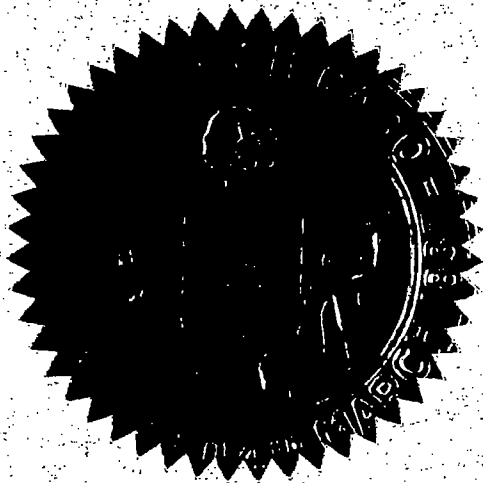
WHEREAS, Following her appointment as alderman, Alderman Holmes hit the ground running. On her first day in office, she introduced legislation to install traffic signals at one of the more dangerous and busy intersections in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward. Thereafter, in short order, she launched a number of "first-of-its-kind" initiatives in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, including the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward Health and Wellness Fair, offering health screenings and cooking demonstrations to ward residents; the Affordable Care Outreach Clinic at the Jeffrey Manor Library, providing residents with the opportunity to enroll in a health care plan and to discuss their health needs with trained professionals; the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward Trades & Apprenticeship Fair, giving residents looking for apprenticeships and career opportunities the chance to speak with prospective employers; the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward Legal Clinic, affording residents the ability to speak with licensed attorneys and law school students about their legal problems; and the "I AM 7" 7<sup>th</sup> Ward magazine, highlighting issues of local concern and publicizing community events; and

WHEREAS, Firmly convinced that constituent input should drive the local planning process, in March of this year Alderman Holmes co-hosted with an aldermanic colleague the first community meeting for the 79<sup>th</sup> Corridor Planning Initiative, bringing a panel of experts and local residents together to discuss residential and business development opportunities for the City's South Shore; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Holmes served with distinction on many Chicago City Council committees, including, most recently, as a member of the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics; Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development; Committee on Health and Environmental Protection; Committee on Housing and Real Estate; Committee on Human Relations; Committee on Public Safety; and Committee on Transportation and Public Way; 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 May, 2015, do hereby extend to Alderman Natasha Holmes our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for her service to the people of Chicago, and our best wishes for continued success in all of her endeavors; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Alderman Natasha Holmes as a token of our appreciation and esteem.



*Ral Emanuel*

MAYOR

*Suzanne A. Mendoza*

CITY CLERK