



# City of Chicago



R2016-760

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:**

10/5/2016

**Sponsor(s):**

Emanuel (Mayor)  
Thompson (11)  
Solis (25)

**Type:**

Resolution

**Title:**

Congratulations extended to Bernarda Lo Wong for your dedication and invaluable service to the Chinese American community

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## Resolution

**WHEREAS**, Bernarda “Bernie” Lo Wong is a founder and the President of the Chinese American Service League (CASL), the largest, most comprehensive social service agency in the Midwest dedicated to serving the needs of Chinese Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Bernie was born and raised in Hong Kong. At eighteen, she moved to Sioux City, Iowa to earn a B.A. in Sociology from Briar Cliff University and later a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1979, Bernie and her friends began building the Chinese American Service League in an effort to help new immigrants overcome the challenges of a new culture and language; and

**WHEREAS**, Under Bernie’s leadership, CASL has grown from a one-person shop in 1979 with an annual budget of \$32,000 to a \$13.5 million agency, providing child services, elder services, employment training services, family counseling, and housing and financial education to over 17,000 clients of all ages and backgrounds each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Bernie is an active community member, serving as the Chair of the Mayor’s Advisory Council on Asian Affairs and was the first Asian appointed to the Boards of United Way of Chicago and the Chicago Public Library. She also served on the Governor’s Asian Advisory Council and the Leadership of the Greater Chicago Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Bernie is a board member of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and the Council for the Illinois Department on Aging. Bernie is also founding member of Chinese Immigrant Service Agencies Network International; and

**WHEREAS**, She has earned many awards for her work, including the Alumna of the Year Award from Briar Cliff University (1988), the Commissioner’s Team Award from the Social Security Administration (1997), the Luminary Senior Award from the Chicago Department on Aging (2002), the Community Organizer Trailblazer Award from Rainbow/Push Coalition (2004), the Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Social Work at Washington University (2006), the Edward J. Williams Community Leadership Award from Harris Bank (2010), the Champion of Change Award as part of President Obama’s “Winning the Future” initiative (2012), the Outstanding Community Leader Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (2012), the YWCA Racial Justice Award (2012), the Chicago History Museum’s Jane Addams Making History Award for Distinction in Social Service (2013), the “Remarkable Woman” award by the Chicago Tribune (2013), the Washington University Distinguished Alumni Award (2015), the Fifth Third Bank Community Leader Award (2015), Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs’ Outstanding Leader Award (2016), and the Briar Cliff University Distinguished Alumni Award (2016), and was named one of “100 Women of Influence” by Today’s Chicago Woman; and

**WHEREAS**, Bernie's dedication to serving others with dignity and respect and her commitment to the welfare of others and the City of Chicago is truly exemplary; now, therefore,

**BE IT BE RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here on this fifth day of October, 2016, do hereby thank Bernarda Lo Wong for her invaluable service; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Bernarda Lo Wong as a token of our honor, gratitude, and respect.

cons



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

October 5, 2016

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Thompson and Solis, a congratulatory resolution concerning Bernarda Lo Wong.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor