



City of Chicago



R2016-516

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:

6/22/2016

Sponsor(s):

Burke (14)
Hopkins (2)
Thompson (11)
O'Connor (40)
Reilly (42)

Type:

Resolution

Title:

Congratulations extended to Billy Lawless on appointment
as member of Seanad of Ireland

Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council would like to congratulate Billy Lawless, an Irish-born Chicago restaurateur and businessman, on being named by the Taoiseach as a member of the Irish Seanad; and

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

WHEREAS, A tireless advocate for the Irish in America and a key leader of the immigration reform efforts in the United States, Billy Lawless is the first Irish immigrant to be appointed to the Oireachtas, the Irish legislature, and will regularly travel from Chicago to represent the diaspora in Leinster House; and

WHEREAS, Born in Galway, Ireland, Billy Lawless has enjoyed a lifelong passion for politics and ran for Galway City Council in 1991 but was defeated by his neighbor and friend; and

WHEREAS, Having sold his family's dairy farm in the late 1970s, Billy Lawless operated several bars and hotels in Galway during the 1990s when he and his family moved to the United States after his daughter was offered a rowing scholarship at Amherst College; and

WHEREAS, Billy Lawless fell in love with Chicago and opened his first bar, the Irish Oak, in 1998 and since then has opened five restaurants in Chicago that employ more than 300 people; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his successful business career, Billy Lawless became involved with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights becoming its Vice-President; and

WHEREAS, Billy Lawless is regarded as a leading activist for immigration reform; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this twenty-second day of June, 2016, do hereby congratulate Billy Lawless on his appointment and do hereby extend our best wishes to him; and

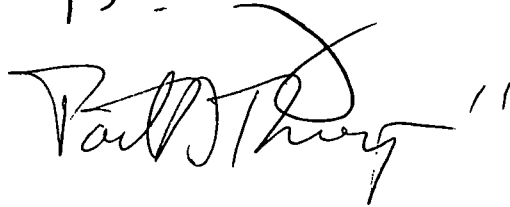
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Billy Lawless.


Alderman - 14th Ward

Ben Harkins 2

 40th

B. 42

 11