



City of Chicago



R2019-708

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	10/16/2019
Sponsor(s):	Austin (34)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late Melvin Gregory Caldwell
Committee(s) Assignment:	

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR MELVIN GREGORY CALDWELL

WHEREAS, God, in His Infinite Wisdom has called Melvin Gregory Caldwell, most beloved citizen, to his eternal reward on August 29, 2019, at the age of sixty; and

WHEREAS, This august body has been informed of his passing by the Honorable Carrie M. Austin, Alderman of the 34th Ward and Chairman of the Committee on Contracting Oversight and Equity; and

WHEREAS, Melvin was born on the West Side of Chicago on January 17, 1959 to loving parents Louis Caldwell and Ophelia Harper Caldwell. Melvin and his family were the first African Americans to move to the Park Manor neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Melvin graduated from Hirsch High School in 1977 as Vice President, and went on to attend the University of Iowa, where he majored in Political Science and Public Administration. While a student at the University of Iowa, he became a Life Member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and a Mason (Prince Hall Masonic Temple, North Star Lodge #1). Melvin was also active in civil rights issues, leading marches at the University's Pentacrest and Student Union to bring awareness to the Atlanta Child Murders, and inviting civil rights activists, including Julian Bond, to speak at Iowa NAACP Chapter events; and

WHEREAS, Melvin continued his education, receiving his Law degree from Ohio Northern University in 1986, and a Master's degree from Governor's State University in 2000. Melvin also encouraged learning in others, and taught as an adjunct professor at Triton College in River Grove, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Melvin wrote for several independent Black-owned newspapers and major newspapers in Chicago and throughout Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Melvin also collaborated with noted journalists, television reporters, and producers on items focused on current local news and events, and served as a media consultant for Thornton Township; and

WHEREAS, Melvin produced his own television talk shows in Chicago, and used those shows as a platform to interview influential local politicians, businesspeople, union leaders, television personalities, and others in the community on important local issues; and

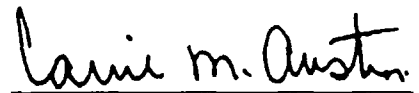
WHEREAS, Known as the "go-to" person for both his family and friends, Melvin was always willing to assist with various legal and personal matters. He received great joy from helping others, and would be there any time someone needed help; and

WHEREAS, Melvin leaves to cherish his memories his daughter, Alexandria; grand-daughter, Rheegan; companion, Phyllis; sister, Franzcine; brother, Anthony; and a host of relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Melvin deeply touched the lives of all who knew him through his enthusiasm, eagerness to both learn and teach, and his willingness to help family, friends, and his community. He will be deeply missed, but the memory of his character and compassion will live on in those who knew and loved him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 16th day of October, 2019, do hereby extend our most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Melvin Gregory Caldwell; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Melvin Gregory Caldwell as a sign of our honor and respect.



CARRIE M. AUSTIN
Alderman, 34th Ward

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