



Office of the City Clerk



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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 9/12/2012
Sponsor(s): Osterman, Harry (48)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi
Committee(s) Assignment:

TRIBUTE TO ETHIOPIAN PRIME MINISTER MELES ZENAWI

WHEREAS, It was with profound shock and sadness that the City of Chicago City Council received the news of the sudden death of Meles Zenawi Asres, the Prime Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia since 1995, chairman of the Tigrayan Peoples' Liberation Front, the head of the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front since 1985 and President of Ethiopia from 1991 until he assumed the office he held until his passing at the age of 53 on August 20, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi will be remembered and admired for his deep devotion to his country. He was at the forefront of Ethiopia's remarkable economic growth and was demonstrably committed to expanding his people's educational opportunities as well as their health care; and

WHEREAS, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's role in the security and peace in that region of Africa cannot be denied. The reforms and programs he promulgated led to the creation of a multi-party political system, privately owned media and a sharp decrease child mortality rates in Ethiopia; and

WHEREAS, Born in Adwa, in the northern province of Tigray to an Ethiopian father and an Eritrean mother, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi graduated from the General Wingate High school in Addis Ababa, then studied medicine at the University in Addis Ababa but quit his studies in 1975 to join the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, one of many groups fighting in a civil war against the junta that governed Ethiopia at that time; and

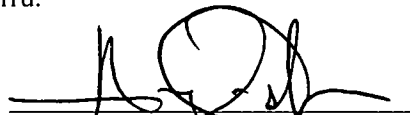
WHEREAS, Although his birth name was Legesse Zenawi, he later assumed the name "Meles" in honor of a fellow university student, Tigray Meles Tekle, who was executed by the junta. When the civil strife ended in 1991, Meles Zenawi became the President of the transitional government and was elected as Prime Minister four years later; and

WHEREAS, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's advocacy for his nation, his service in the African Union and commitment to ending hunger in his country is well-recognized by world leaders and will be revered for generations of Ethiopians to come; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Harry Osterman, Alderman of the 48th Ward that is home to a vibrant Ethiopian community that numbers in the thousands, has informed this august body of the untimely passing of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago gathered here this 12th Day of September, 2012 AD, do hereby express our deepest condolences to the Ethiopian people and extend to that great nation our deepest sympathy and respect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and delivered to Special Envoy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Girma Birru.


HARRY OSTERMAN
Alderman - 48th Ward

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