



Office of the Chicago City
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R2011-1245

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

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| Meeting Date: | 11/2/2011 |
| Sponsor(s): | Burns, William D. (4) |
| Type: | Resolution |
| Title: | Tribute to Late Dr. Gregory James |
| Committee(s) Assignment: | |

Resolution for Dr. Gregory James

WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago are hereby informed of the passing of Dr. Gregory James, a lifelong educator, on October 20, 2011, by Alderman William D. Burns; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory James was born February 29, 1956, in Chicago, Illinois. He lived in Pennsylvania, New York, Texas, Ohio and Massachusetts before returning to Chicago to settle; and

WHEREAS, On his return, he became a member of Trinity United Church of Christ, where he was a gifted tenor in the sanctuary choir; and

WHEREAS, At the time of his passing, he was the Assistant Vice President of student affairs at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James started his career at Oakton in August, 2005 as Dean of Students and was promoted to Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs/Office of Access, Equity, and Diversity in June, 2009 – the first to hold that position. He also served on Oakton's Master Plan Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, A mentor to students and colleagues alike, Dr. James' commitment to social justice and anti-bias work made him a leader, both at the College and regionally. He was regularly called upon to speak at events and conferences about his work; and

WHEREAS, Dr James earned his Master of Science in Education from Southern Illinois University and his Ed.D. from Grambling State University in Louisiana. Dr James is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He also served on the steering committee of the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, Dr James was involved in many community organizations and was the recipient of numerous awards for his activism; and

WHEREAS, Dr James had a strong commitment to student success and complete confidence that Oakton students could meet any challenge. He held students to a high standard and wasn't afraid to say so. Oakton Community College lost a valued educator/administrator; and

WHEREAS, Dr James is survived by longtime life partner, David DeCoursey-James; daughter, Maurionna Minor; his father Rev. Dr. Silas James; Brothers Lt. Colonial Cedric C. Minor-ret., Daryl K. Minor, Kevin D. Minor, Maurice D. Minor; their spouses; nieces and nephews; and a host of extended family and friends; now therefore

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BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council assemble this Second Day of November 2011, do hereby pay tribute to Dr. Gregory James, and express gratitude for his years of service to the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the David DeCoursey-James.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William D. Burns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

William D. Burns
Alderman, 4th Ward
City of Chicago