



**City of Chicago**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
**Document Tracking Sheet**



R2016-206

**Meeting Date:** 3/16/2016  
**Sponsor(s):** Burke (14)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Tribute to late Harper Lee  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Harper Lee has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God; and

**WHEREAS**, The Chicago City Council has been informed of her passing by Alderman Edward M. Burke; and

**WHEREAS**, Born Nelle Harper Lee in 1926, Harper Lee was raised in Monroeville, Alabama, one of four children of Frances and Amasa Lee, a newspaper editor and lawyer who served in the Alabama State Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, After graduating from high school, Harper Lee attended Huntingdon College in Montgomery and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1949 Harper Lee moved to New York City where she supported herself writing fiction while working as an airline reservation agent; and

**WHEREAS**, Harper Lee wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which was published in 1960 and became an enduring classic of American literature; and

**WHEREAS**, Loosely based on her childhood observations of racist attitudes in the Deep South, *To Kill a Mockingbird* was made into an Oscar-winning movie starring Gregory Peck; and

**WHEREAS**, As a recognized luminary of the literary world, Harper Lee later accompanied her childhood friend, Truman Capote, to Holcomb, Kansas, to research his 1966 non-fiction book *In Cold Blood*; and

**WHEREAS**, A recipient of numerous honorary degrees, Harper Lee was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007 recognizing her contribution to literature; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2015 Harper Lee released the sequel of *To Kill A Mockingbird* entitled *Go Set a Watchman*; and

**WHEREAS**, The hard work, sacrifice and dedication of Harper Lee serve as an example to all; and

**WHEREAS**, Harper Lee was an individual of great integrity and accomplishment who will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by her many relatives, friends and admirers; and

**WHEREAS**, To her beloved family, Harper Lee imparts a legacy of faithfulness, service and dignity; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this sixteenth day of March, 2016, do hereby commemorate Harper Lee for her grace-filled life and do hereby express our condolences to her family; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Harper Lee.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barb".

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*Alderman - 14<sup>th</sup> Ward*