



Office of the Chicago City
Clerk



Or2011-1011

Office of the City Clerk


City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	10/5/2011
Sponsor(s):	Fioretti, Bob (2)
Type:	Order
Title:	Permission to install Camp Douglas historical marker
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Transportation and Public Way

Introduced: October 5, 2011

Referred: Committee on Transportation and Public Way

ORDERED, That the Commissioner of Transportation is hereby authorized and directed to grant permission to Alderman Robert W. Fioretti, 2nd Ward, 1319 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois, and Illinois State Historical Society, P.O. Box 1800, Springfield, Illinois, to use the public way at 3102 South Giles Avenue for the installation and maintenance of a Camp Douglas historic marker.



ROBERT W. FIORETTI
Alderman, 2nd Ward

Handwritten scribbles or marks.

CAMP DOUGLAS

Named in honor of the late Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas, from whose estate nearly 60 acres of land were donated, Camp Douglas, established in 1861, was the earliest and largest Union military camp in the Chicago area. The camp stretched from 31st Street to 33rd Place and from Cottage Grove Avenue to the east to South Giles Avenue to the west.

Planned as one of the largest Union training camps, it was one of the few camps in the North to train African-American soldiers. More than 25,000 Union soldiers and approximately 30,000 Confederate prisoners were housed here during the Civil War. Poorly designed and inadequate as a containment site for Confederate Army prisoners of war, Camp Douglas was remembered by survivors for its poor living conditions, overcrowding, inadequate medical treatment, bitter weather conditions, and a shortage of food. These factors gave rise to the high mortality rate among the Confederates imprisoned here.

While the precise number of prisoners who died at Camp Douglas is unknown, there are more than 6,000 Confederates buried in historic Oak Woods Cemetery at 1035 East 67th Street. Historians debate reports of a prisoner break-out plot and plan to seize Chicago for the Confederacy. Camp Douglas was closed by November 1865.