



City of Chicago
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Meeting Date: 4/22/2020
Sponsor(s): Mitts (37)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Eula Brooks-Williams
Committee(s) Assignment:

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF EULA BROOKS-WILLIAMS

WHEREAS, Eula "Suga Mama" Brooks-Williams, wife, mother, sister, teacher, and community activist, recently entered into eternity; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of Eula Brooks-Williams's passing by the Honorable Emma Mitts, Alderman of the 37th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Eula was born on January 30, 1938, to the late Reverend Arnette Jenkins and Effie Henry Jenkins in Pontotoc County, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, After being baptized at the age of ten at Cherokee Creek Baptist Church in New Albany, Mississippi, Eula went on to live a life of service within the church, her community, and classrooms across the country; and

WHEREAS, Eula's introduction to service began during her time singing and encouraging Christians along the Bible Belt as the lead alto singer of "The Jenkins Girls", a group comprised of her and all her sisters; and

WHEREAS, Staying true to her passion for church ministry, Eula served annually as a delegate to the Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Eula moved to Chicago to pursue a degree in Education, and after graduating from Chicago State University with a B.A. in Elementary Education, she advocated for youth while traveling across the country as an ambassador for the Teachers Union; and

WHEREAS, Eula's dedication to academic excellence was recognized by the numerous awards she received throughout her career at Chicago Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, While in Chicago, Eula joined St. Stephens AME Church in East Garfield Park where she served as a Sunday School Teacher and met the love of her life, Thomas C. Williams; the two married shortly thereafter and took pride in raising Eula's teenage daughter, Sandra, and Sandra's daughter, Jessica LaShawn, whom Eula and Thomas later adopted; and

WHEREAS, Eula was a pivotal partner in raising awareness of missing funding for the Central and Grand Avenue bridge, and later ran for State Representative numerous times, each time galvanizing a new population of civically engaged individuals; and

WHEREAS, Eula was on the front lines of political reform in the Austin neighborhood, where she rallied continuously for community improvements as one of the co-founders of the Austin Grassroots Coalition for Change; and

WHEREAS, Inspiring her family to continue to fight for political reform and civic engagement, Eula was the backbone and main financial sponsor of Mogul Academy, an award-winning non-profit founded by her daughter Jessica that supports entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and financial literacy for urban youth; and

WHEREAS, Her dedication to enriching her family, community, and the church is the foundation of Eula's legacy, and she always asked that everyone she touched be willing to mentor the youth in their family and be proud liaisons between generations at all times; and

WHEREAS, Eula joins the following guardian angels on the other side of this life: her parents, Reverend Arnette and Effie Henry, and her siblings, Reverend Charles Jenkins, Mrs. Daisy Erby, Mrs. Earnestine Carruthers, Mr. James Jenkins, Mrs. Toni Jackson, Mrs. Besie Judon,

Ms. Lunell Jenkins, and Ms. Victoria Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, Eula is survived by: her daughters, Sandra K Brooks Perkins (husband Tommie Lee Perkins), Sandra's children – Jessica LaShawn (adopted by Eula and Thomas), Derrick Brooks; his daughter Derriona Brooks, Albert L Dunn (children Kenton Dunn and Danye Dunn); her siblings Willie Mae Scales, Lillie Starks, Linda Taylor, Diane Jenkins, and Roy Jenkins; and her godchildren Rodney Edwards, Darius Williams, Tia Fells, Britney Hammer, Earaina Mixon, and Stephany Rose Spaulding; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this twenty-second day of April, 2020, do hereby extend our most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Eula "Suga Mama" Brooks-Williams; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family Eula Brooks-Williams as a sign of our honor and respect.



EMMA MITTS
Alderman, 37th Ward.