



# City of Chicago



R2015-544

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	7/29/2015
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Dowell (3)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Congratulations extended to Pilgrim Baptist Church on 99th anniversary
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

**A Resolution Commemorating the 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of Pilgrim Baptist Church**

**WHEREAS**, Pilgrim Baptist Church is celebrating its 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 20, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, Pilgrim's rich history began with a small group of praying men and women in a deacon's basement in 1916; and

**WHEREAS**, Pilgrim's building was designed by famed architect Louis Sullivan, engineer Dankmar Adler and draftsman Frank Lloyd Wright, and was used as the Kehilath Anshe Ma'ariv Synagogue before becoming Pilgrim Baptist Church in 1922; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1973, the Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the City Council of Chicago and was later designated as a Chicago Landmark on December 18, 1981. And despite a fire in 2006 that destroyed nearly all of the interior of the church, this historic architectural landmark and its original exterior are still standing today; and

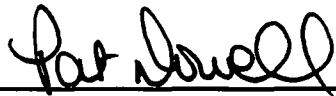
**WHEREAS**, Many influential people have experienced the blessings of Pilgrim Baptist Church, including: Thomas A. Dorsey - the father of gospel music, Senator Margaret Smith, Jackie Vaughn, Bessie Coleman, Mahalia Jackson, Jack Johnson, Oscar Brown, Jr.; and

**WHEREAS**, Pilgrim played a prominent role in the Civil Rights movement and on many occasions hosted Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for sermons at the church; and

**WHEREAS**, Pilgrim's commitment to service and the community continues to this day through its many vibrant ministries like the volunteers ministry, women's ministry and youth ministry; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and the City Council members of the City of Chicago hereby assembled on this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015, A.D., do hereby congratulate Pilgrim Baptist Church on its 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Pilgrim Baptist Church on the occasion of its anniversary.



Pat Dowell  
Alderman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward

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