

**RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING DONNA ZARCONE ON HER RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT
AND CEO OF THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF CHICAGO**

WHEREAS, The members of the Chicago City Council wish to congratulate Donna Zarcone on her retirement as President and CEO of the Economic Club of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this milestone by the Honorable Brendan Reilly, Alderman of the 42nd Ward; and

WHEREAS, Born in Westchester, Illinois, Donna earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business following a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Illinois State University; and

WHEREAS, Donna worked for a public accounting firm and became President of Harley-Davidson Financial Services before launching her own firm, D.F. Zarcone & Associates LLC; Donna joined the Economic Club of Chicago in 1999 and became President of the Club in 2012; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Economic Club of Chicago is to foster meaningful connections among Chicago leaders to encourage dialogue on important economic and social issues and to cultivate the next generation of leadership; and

WHEREAS, Donna is credited with diversifying the Club's membership, improving programming, and spurring revenue during her eight years as President and CEO; under her leadership, female membership in the Club grew from 22 percent to 30 percent, and non-white membership grew from 10 percent to 17 percent; the Club's 47-member board now consists of one-third women members and one-third minority members; and

WHEREAS, Donna currently serves on the corporate boards of the Cigna Corporation, CDW, and the Duchossois Group, and has previously served on the boards of the Jones Group and Wrightwood Capital; she also serves on the board of the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and is a member of the Commercial Club of Chicago, the Committee of 200, the Chicago Network, and the Young Presidents' Organization; and

WHEREAS, Donna is known as a great motivator, with a calm demeanor and a knack for pulling events together on short notice; her leadership and abilities were displayed when, with only four weeks' warning and amid heavy security for the 2012 NATO conference in Chicago, she and her staff booked a venue and hosted 350 attendees for an appearance by General Martin Dempsey, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this ninth day of September, 2020, do hereby congratulate Donna Zarcone on her retirement as president and CEO of the Economic Club of Chicago and on her many accomplishments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Donna Zarcone as an expression of our esteem and respect.



BRENDAN REILLY
Alderman, 42nd Ward