



City of Chicago



R2015-355

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date:	5/6/2015
Sponsor(s):	Emanuel (Mayor)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Alderman Latasha R. Thomas for dedicated service to residents of 17th Ward
Committee(s) Assignment:	



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

May 6, 2015

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a congratulatory resolution regarding our departing colleague
Alderman Latasha R. Thomas.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor

A resolution

adopted by The City Council
of the City of Chicago, Illinois



Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on MAY 6, 2015

Whereas, The Members of this Chamber are proud to congratulate our friend and colleague, Alderman Latasha R. Thomas, on her fourteen years of dedicated and outstanding service to the people of the 17th Ward and the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, An exemplary product of the Chicago Public Schools system, Alderman Thomas attended Oglesby Elementary School and Kenwood Academy on Chicago's South Side. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Illinois and her juris doctor degree from DePaul University College of Law; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining the Chicago City Council, Alderman Thomas enjoyed a successful career in private law practice and government service. In 1997, she began working for the Department of Human Services as Associate Director of the Children's Services Division. In April of 2000, she was promoted to Director of Intergovernmental Relations; and

WHEREAS, First appointed to the Chicago City Council in 2000 to fill a vacant aldermanic seat, Alderman Thomas was re-elected to four additional terms; and

WHEREAS, A proud resident of the 17th Ward for most of her life, Alderman Thomas worked tirelessly to improve the Englewood and Auburn Gresham neighborhoods by spurring investment in local businesses. During her three terms in office, the 17th Ward experienced the greatest increase in new home construction and business growth in thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Thomas sponsored numerous community-building events. She is perhaps best known for hosting Englewood's Southside Gospel Festival, the largest neighborhood gospel festival in all of Chicago. Over 20,000 city residents attend this spirited and inspirational event each year; and

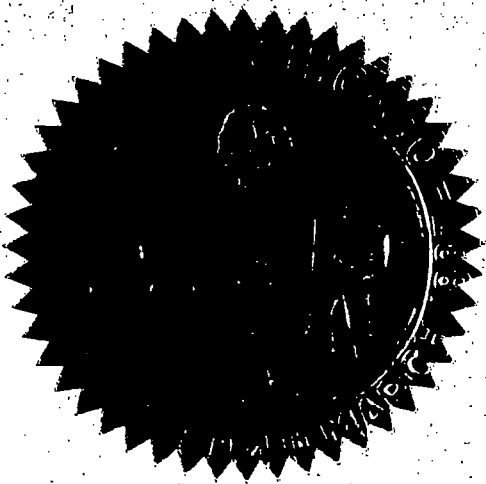
WHEREAS, Improving Chicago's schools and increasing educational opportunities for all of the City's students were always among Alderman Thomas' foremost priorities. During her tenure in office, Alderman Thomas secured funding for school renovations and campus park facilities throughout the 17th Ward, and she called for hearings to examine the Chicago Public Schools' drug education policy; and

WHEREAS, An exemplary leader, Alderman Thomas demonstrated her capacity for creative problem solving and bold action on many occasions. She spearheaded the "Diversity in Firms Disclosure Ordinance" to encourage banks and other financial institutions to provide their employees with equal opportunities to develop skills and professional expertise, and she was instrumental in securing passage of an ordinance limiting the hours of operation of businesses that chronically allow their premises be used for unlawful activities; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Thomas has served with distinction on many Chicago City Council committees, including, most recently, as Chairman of the Committee on Education and Child Development; and as a member of the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics; Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation; Committee on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards; Committee on the Budget and Government Operations; Committee on Human Relations; and Committee on Workforce Development and Audit; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this sixth day of May, 2015, do hereby extend to Alderman Latasha R. Thomas our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for her many years of exceptional service to the people of Chicago, and our best wishes for continued success in all of her future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Alderman Latasha R. Thomas as a token of our appreciation and esteem.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rahm Emanuel".

MAYOR

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susana A. Mendoza".

CITY CLERK