



Office of the Chicago City
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R2012-184

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	2/15/2012
Sponsor(s):	Burns, William D. (4)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late Cheryl Blackwell Bryson
Committee(s) Assignment:	

Resolution for Mrs. Cheryl Blackwell Bryson

WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago are hereby informed of the passing of Mrs. Cheryl Blackwell Bryson, a resident of the Fourth Ward , by Alderman William D. Burns; and

WHEREAS, Cheryl Blackwell Bryson was born in Baltimore, Maryland on May 28, 1950 to Connie McCreary Blackwell and Clarence David Blackwell. Born 4th of 6 children, Cheryl faithfully attended Israel Baptist Church in Baltimore, where her uncle was the pastor. She regularly attended Sunday School and services, and sang with the youth choir. Cheryl learned early that being competitive and striving for excellence were important entrees to a successful professional career. She challenged herself to earn good grades and to learn as much as she could on a variety of subjects. As a result, she became a lifelong learner, a voracious reader, and an international world traveler. She never tired of learning about her African American culture, genealogy, and about other cultures as well; and

WHEREAS, Cheryl was a partner in the Duane Morris LLP law firm. One of the first African American women in Chicago to ascend to partner in a major law firm. She represented Fortune 500 companies in a variety of industries on labor and employment law, and litigation issues. She consistently brought in clients that generated large amounts of business for the firm; and

WHEREAS, She was elected to the Board of Directors of the DuSable Museum of African-American History in 2004 and became Chairman of the Board in 2009. Under Cheryl's leadership, DuSable's stature was elevated as she spearheaded a \$50 million capital campaign an attracted new donors and high profile board members. She was also a member of the Sinai Health System's Board of Directors and chaired the Sinai Community Institute's 19th Annual Gala in 2011; and

WHEREAS, A loving, thoughtful and caring person, Cheryl mentored many young lawyers and others during her career. In fact, numerous African American female attorneys of all ages acknowledge Cheryl as a mentor. Cheryl enjoyed and was actively involved in politics for more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, While on leave from law firm practice, she served as Deputy Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago's Law Department and established the Labor Relations Division under Mayor Harold Washington. A frequent author and lecturer on labor and employment law issues, Cheryl was a member of the Labor and Employment Law Section of the American Bar Association, the Labor and Employment Law Committee of the Chicago Bar Association, and the Cook County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Cheryl was a 1977 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Law, where she was Associate Editor of the Law Journal. Previously she was a 1972

Magna Cum Laude graduate of Morgan State University in Baltimore, where she majored in psychology. She is also a member of the Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; and

WHEREAS, Despite all of her accolades and awards, Cheryl was first and foremost a devoted wife to her husband of twenty-seven years, Dr. James Bryson, and wonderful mother to her two sons, Bradley and Blake. Her face always lit up when her sons walked into the room. She learned early in her career the importance of balancing family and career. She stressed the fact to other women whom she mentored. Cheryl actively participated in prayer groups with friends; and

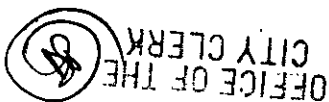
WHEREAS, Cheryl died on January 20, 2012 after a short illness. She is survived by her loving son, Blake Bryson; five siblings: Paula B. Wilson; Clarence David Blackwell; Camellia Blackwell-Taffel (Sherman); Deborah Whittleton (Sam); and Michael S. Blackwell. Her extended family includes a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins as well as in-laws Paula Bryson Kearney (Wayne), Steven Bryson, and Felicia B. Bryson. Her list of special friends in Chicago and her hometown of Baltimore is extensive. Cheryl's husband, Dr. James Bryson, and her elder son, Bradley Bryson, both preceded her in death; Now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council assemble this Fifteenth Day of February 2012, do hereby pay tribute to Cheryl Blackwell Bryson and express gratitude for her years of service to the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Blake Bryson.



William D. Burns
Alderman, 4th Ward
City of Chicago



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