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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	11/2/2011
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Mitts, Emma (37)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Congratulations extended to Freedman Seating Company
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

# RESOLUTION HONORING FREEDMAN SEATING COMPANY

**WHEREAS**, in 1892, Hyman Freedman received an honorable mention for his skill in upholstery, which he honed at the Columbian Exposition (World's Fair) in Chicago. Today, his diploma hangs proudly in the company's corporate offices; and

**WHEREAS**, this is generally considered to be the event heralded as the establishment of the **Freedman Seating Company** in Chicago, IL; and

**WHEREAS**, since then, the **Freedman Seating Company** has proudly operated in the City and the metropolitan area for over 110 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the following are some highlights of the **Freedman Seating Company's** deep commitment to the City of Chicago:

- 550 Employees Including Manufacturing, Sales, Engineering and Administrative Personnel
- 375 New Jobs Created Since 2000
- 75% of Employees live in the City
- 85% Minority or Woman Work Force
- \$20 Million Invested in Current Facility Located on West Side in Enterprise Zone & TIF District
- The Company President and CEO are Both Residents of City of Chicago
- Freedman Seating Company has developed strong and proactive Partnerships with Community Organizations and Schools, to provide job training; and

**WHEREAS**, today **Freedman Seating Company** is a fourth generation family-owned, operated and locally run business. Further, Freedman Seating is one of the nation's leading producers of seating products for the public transportation market. The company produces seats for over 300 buses per week and for delivery trucks for such corporations and government entities such as the United States Postal Service (USPS), FedEx and United Parcel Service (UPS); and

**WHEREAS**, **Freedman Company** seats can be found with major transportation authorities and agencies throughout the region and country including New York City Transit Authority, PACE, WMATA, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Houston along with the States of New York, California, and North Carolina to name a few of their valued customers; and

**WHEREAS**, **Freedman Seating** also supplied the seat frames for 300 new rail cars built for METRA and they are currently in the process of supplying passenger seats for new rail cars for the Chicago-Milwaukee Amtrak service; and

**WHEREAS**, The **Freedman Seating Company** prides itself on providing their products on time every time. They are also committed to providing their customers with excellent products and unparalleled outstanding customer service before, during and after the sale.

**WHEREAS**, In the late 1990's **Freedman Seating Company** began to grow out of its facility in the Ravenswood area of Chicago. There was simply no more room to grow in the gentrifying neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, their number one criterion for a new facility was to maintain their business in the City of Chicago. After an extensive search, **Freedman Seating** was fortunate to have found a vacant building to purchase on Chicago's west side. In September of 1999 after extensive renovation and a nearly six million dollar investment, Freedman Seating moved in to its current facility at 4545 W. Augusta; and

**WHEREAS**, the brand new **Freedman Seating Company** building and the local area are very attractive to the company for several reasons. First, the new facility is located in close proximity to their valued employees--over 75% of which live in the City of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, The **Freedman Seating Company** also now has over 300,000 square feet of manufacturing space primarily on one level. Further, the building is located in an enterprise zone which provides incentives to renovate the facility and provide training to our employees and a close proximity to their valued vendor base. Finally, in support of the city's infrastructure--their facility is centrally located to downtown, airports and highways; and

**WHEREAS**, The **Freedman Seating Company** is committed to keeping manufacturing in Chicago. To accomplish this, Freedman Seating has formed many progressive and significant partnerships with local organizations in order to provide training to its employees; and

**WHEREAS**, The **Freedman Seating Company** is very active with Jane Adams Resource Corporation of Chicago, Wright College and NORBIC, to provide ongoing training and other educational resources to their employees; and

**WHEREAS**, The **Freedman Seating Company** offers the opportunity to provide continuing education free of charge to their employees through its partnership with Wright College. They are also a business supporter of Austin-Polytechnic high school a model school on Chicago's west side. Freedman Seating Company has further provided internships for students, taught classes on a volunteer basis and donated equipment and money to the school, among other initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, The **Mayor** and the **Chicago City Council** have been informed by **37<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Emma Mitts** about the long-standing corporate dedication, business leadership, community commitment and activism of the **Freedman Seating Company**; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the **Mayor** and Members of the **City Council of the City of Chicago**, in honor of this second day of November, 2011 do hereby honor, and wish to express our sincere congratulations on the occasion of the street naming dedication for **Freedman Seating Company**, and in honor of their outstanding and visionary business leadership, and dedication to excellence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the **Freedman Seating Company** as a sign of our deep respect, appreciation and esteem for their many years of excellent business services to the residents of the City of Chicago.

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**Emma Mitts, Alderman – 37<sup>th</sup> Ward**

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