



Office of the City Clerk



Or2012-743

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	12/12/2012
Sponsor(s):	Reilly, Brendan (42)
Type:	Order
Title:	Commemoration of Herman Schuenemann and the loss of the "Rouse Simmons" and further urging Commissioner of Housing and Economic Development to install plaque on the Clark Street Bridge, which sits in the 42nd Ward
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Transportation and Public Way

Committee on Transportation and Public Way
City Council Meeting, December 12, 2012
Alderman Brendan Reilly, 42nd Ward
Substitute Order

SUBSTITUTE
ORDER

WHEREAS, For over 25 years Herman Schuenemann, known as "Captain Santa," brought a shipload of Christmas trees to the southwest corner of the Clark Street Bridge each Christmas season to sell and give away to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Herman Schuenemann's "Christmas tree ship" was well known to Chicagoans, who looked forward to its arrival each year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schuenemann made yearly voyages to the upper peninsula of Michigan to bring Christmas trees to Chicago. The influx of German settlers in the Chicago area with their Christmas tree customs helped make this a successful venture; and

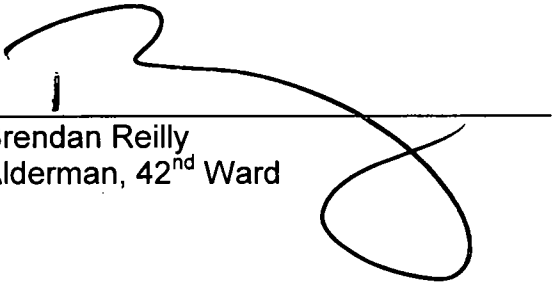
WHEREAS, Mr. Schuenemann was one of about 50 captains that shipped Christmas trees on Lake Michigan from 1880-1920, he sold directly to the public; and

WHEREAS, One hundred years ago on November 23, 1912, the schooner "Rouse Simmons" sank near Two Rivers, Wisconsin. The schooner was likely overloaded with trees and the entire crew perished; and

WHEREAS, After his death, his wife Barbara carried on by transporting the trees by rail then transferring them to the schooner "Oneida" which was docked on the Chicago River. She carried this on until her death in 1933; and

WHEREAS, To honor the memory of Herman Schuenemann and the loss of the "Rouse Simmons", the honorable Brendan Reilly is authorizing and directing the installation of a plaque on the Clark Street Bridge, which sits in the 42nd Ward; now, therefore

BE IT ORDERED, In the event that a commemorative plaque, in form and content acceptable to the Commissioner of Housing and Economic Development, is provided to the City at no cost to the City, then the Commissioner of Transportation shall install said plaque in a suitable location on the Clark Street Bridge.



Brendan Reilly
Alderman, 42nd Ward