



City of Chicago



R2020-611

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	9/9/2020
Sponsor(s):	Tunney (44) Waguespack (32) Hadden (49)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Barbara Bolsen on retirement from The Night Ministry
Committee(s) Assignment:	

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Barbara Bolsen announced her retirement from The Night Ministry on September 30, 2020 following twenty-three years of distinguished service to the organization and the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this occasion by Alderman Thomas Tunney of the 44th Ward, Alderman Scott Waguespack of the 32nd Ward, and Alderwoman Maria Hadden of the 49th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Barbara was born in Cincinnati, Ohio the oldest of three children to parents who were both educators. To the surprise of no one, Barb skipped 5th grade. In high school, Barb was part of the swim club and played field hockey; and

WHEREAS, Bolsen moved to Chicago to attend Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism where she received a Bachelor Degree in Journalism; and

WHEREAS, As a journalist, Barb worked for publications in Maine, Washington, DC, and Chicago, and served as an adjunct instructor at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism. In Chicago, Bolsen worked for the Lerner Newspapers and spent twenty-three years working as a copy editor, reporter, managing editor, and – ultimately – the Editor of the American Medical Association's American Medical News; and

WHEREAS, After more than two decades in the world of journalism, Barb became more interested in social justice issues and decided it was time to do work that would engage her heart; and

WHEREAS, Bolsen attended Chicago Theological Seminary, where she received her Master of Divinity and was ordained as a United Church of Christ minister in 2000. During her time at Chicago Theological Seminary, Barb completed an internship with the AIDS Pastoral Care Network, working alongside a Chaplain who facilitated a weekly support group with women in the AIDS unit at Cook County Hospital; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Barbara found work that was in sync with her values when she started working for The Night Ministry. She was hired to work part-time in The Night Ministry's original Open Door Shelter on Clark Street in the Lakeview Neighborhood and doing street outreach focused on homeless youth in the neighborhood, many of whom identified as LGBTQ; and

WHEREAS, During her time as The Night Ministry's Youth Outreach Minister, Bolsen became aware of the traumatic, unsafe experiences that young people – especially trans young people – faced on the streets of Chicago. Together with Lakeview Action Coalition, she worked to increase awareness of these young peoples' experiences and create change with local elected officials, the business community, neighborhood groups, and within the Chicago Police Department; and

WHEREAS, She soon became the Director of The Night Ministry's Outreach & Health Ministry Program, which provides free health care and outreach in neighborhoods across Chicago via the Health Outreach Bus; and

WHEREAS, As Director of Programs, Barb led further expansion of the Health Outreach Bus into neighborhoods like Humboldt Park, Pilsen, Roseland, New City, and Rogers Park. Under her

leadership, The Night Ministry's youth shelters expanded from one 16-bed shelter program to four programs that provided 53 beds nightly. Included in that expansion were programs dedicated to pregnant and parenting youth and The Crib – Chicago's first overnight emergency shelter for homeless youth – which provides safe space for homeless youth who identify as LGBTQ; and

WHEREAS, As Director of Strategic Partnerships, Bolsen assisted in the development of a shelter program that houses Chicago Public School students experiencing homelessness and the relocation of The Crib and The Night Ministry's administrative offices to its current home in Bucktown; and

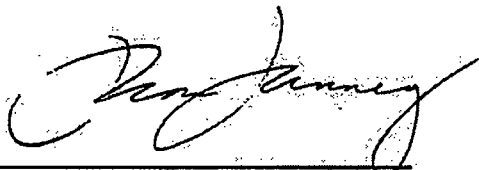
WHEREAS, Barbara has served on many Boards of Directors such as the Urban Clinical Pastoral Education Consortium, Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation, Lakeview Action Coalition (now known as ONE Northside), and Community Renewal Society. She is a member of Epiphany United Church of Christ in Chicago, where she sings in the choir; and

WHEREAS, Barb has earned the opportunity to spend her time doing the things that she loves - travelling, photography, reading, enjoying the outdoors, and providing a loving home for her older dogs Huckleberry and Dandelion. She has spent many hours sailing on Lake Michigan admiring the city's skyline. She is a devotee of The New York Times crossword puzzle (which she completes in ink). She belongs to two book clubs. She enjoys trips to Door County every summer, White Sox games, nights out at the theatre, and a good glass of wine; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Bolsen has served the City of Chicago, The Night Ministry, and thousands of Chicagoans experiencing homelessness and poverty with compassion and integrity, and has earned a happy retirement; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 9th day of September 2020, do hereby honor the service and accomplishments of Barbara Bolsen and extend our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to her on her retirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Barbara Bolsen as a symbol of our esteem and gratitude.



Thomas M. Tunney
Alderman, 44th Ward

Maria Hadden
Alderwoman, 49th Ward

Scott Waguespack
Alderman, 32nd Ward



CITY OF CHICAGO

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
ANNA M. VALENCIA

Chicago City Council Co-Sponsor Form

Document No.: R 2020-611

Subject: Resolution - Congress extended to Barbara Bolton on retirement from The Night Ministry

Adding Co-Sponsor(s)

Please ADD Co-Sponsor(s) Shown Below – (Principal Sponsor's Consent Required)

Alderman *Scotty Guzman* (32 Ward)
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Alderman _____ (____ Ward)
(Signature)

Date Filed: 9-10-20

Principal Sponsor: *Donna Amey*
(Signature)

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Please REMOVE Co-Sponsor(s) Below – (Principal Sponsor's Consent NOT Required)

Alderman _____ (____ Ward)
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Alderman _____ (____ Ward)
(Signature)

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Final Copies To Be Filed With:

- Chairman of Committee to which legislation was referred
- City Clerk



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Please **ADD** Co-Sponsor(s) Shown Below – (Principal Sponsor's Consent Required)

Alderman M. Fadden 49th Ward
(Signature)

Alderman _____ Ward)
(Signature)

Date Filed: 9-10-20 Principal Sponsor: [Signature]
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Removing Co-Sponsor(s)

Please **REMOVE** Co-Sponsor(s) Below – (Principal Sponsor's Consent NOT Required)

Alderman _____ Ward)
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