



Office of the Chicago City
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R2012-565

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 6/6/2012
Sponsor(s): Fioretti, Bob (2)
Type: Resolution
Title: Congratulations extended to Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago
Committee(s) Assignment:

COMMEMORATING THE 170th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

WHEREAS, On June 1, 2012, the historic Second Presbyterian Church will celebrate an unprecedented 170th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, On that date in 1842, 26 citizens of the Presbyterian faith formed the second congregation of the Second Presbyterian Church. Five years later, they commissioned prominent East Coast architect James Renwick who was known for his Gothic style. He designed the famed St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and the castle that houses the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. Renwick had previously designed the original church that was located at the northeast corner of Washington and Wabash but was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1871; and

WHEREAS, This striking edifice was heavily damaged by fire in 1900 but was rebuilt by life-long church member and a prominent architect, Howard Van Doren Shaw. He collaborated with his friend Frederic Clay Bartlett, a muralist. Influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, Shaw and Bartlett gave the church the remarkable architectural details and decoration that is seen today. In 1974, the Second Presbyterian Church was placed on the list of the National Register of Historic Places and this legislative body designated it a Chicago Landmark in 1977; and

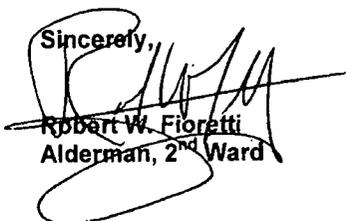
WHEREAS, The Second Presbyterian Church possesses more than twenty stained glass windows by Louis C. Tiffany, Healy and Millet, William Fair Kline, and Sir Edward Burne-Jones as well as a hand-carved limestone baptismal font imported from Florence, Italy, and a bronze Celtic cross, forged on the island of Iona off the coast of Scotland, 13 Pre-Raphaelite murals by Bartlett and a host of other remarkable treasures that make Second Presbyterian Church a place of exquisite beauty; and

WHEREAS, That the Second Presbyterian Church has endured for 170 years is a testament not only to the noteworthy architecture but also to the praiseworthy spirit of its congregation. It is deeply rooted in faith and tradition, having the strength of purpose to face the common and diverse challenges of the community they serve by providing them a solid base of support and encouragement; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert W. Fioretti, Alderman of the 2nd Ward, has apprised this august body of the significant and auspicious milestone reached by the Second Presbyterian Church and its congregants; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council gathered together this 6th Day of June, 2012 AD, do hereby salute the Second Presbyterian Church upon the occasion of its 170th Anniversary and extend our very best wishes for continued success in fulfilling its mission for centuries to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and given to Dr. David M. Neff, Interim Minister of the Second Presbyterian Church.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Fioretti
Alderman, 2nd Ward