



City of Chicago



R2018-345

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	4/18/2018
Sponsor(s):	Smith (43)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Recognition of Little Brown Bat as honorary mammal of Chicago for year 2018
Committee(s) Assignment:	

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The little brown bat, *Myotis lucifugus*, is facing many threats in Chicago, Illinois and the greater Midwest due to the "White Nose Syndrome" disease caused by the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, leading to population depletion ; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of the tremendous impact that the little brown bat has on the ecosystem by the Honorable Michele Smith, Alderman of the 43rd Ward; and

WHEREAS, In peak feeding time, the little brown bat can consume 1,200 harmful insects in an hour. With fewer bats to consume these insects, up to 600 excess tons of crop-destroying insects remain in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide, bat species contribute to saving an estimated \$3.7 billion in crop damage and pest control. Globally, bats contribute to saving an estimated \$1 billion for corn producers; and

WHEREAS, White-nose syndrome was first discovered in New York State in 2006. The syndrome reduces the little brown bat's fat reserves during hibernation, resulting in starvation, dehydration, and death; and

WHEREAS, White-nose syndrome accounts for as high as a 90% little brown bat mortality rate, also reflected in the loss of 5.7 million bats since white-nose syndrome arrived in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The devastation of white-nose syndrome cannot be controlled due to the lack of a cure, so conservation efforts must focus on other methods of managing and monitoring the little brown bat environment; and

WHEREAS, Due to the unique longevity of the little brown bat's life, the use of pesticides leads to a dangerous chemical buildup in the bat's fat reserves, resulting in premature death and the passage of the chemicals to nursing little brown bats; and


WHEREAS, Rapid industrialization and urbanization have reduced the amount of natural habitat available for wildlife

WHEREAS, the Lincoln Park Zoo has taken several initiatives to monitor bat habitats, gain an understanding of their needs and promote conservation efforts; now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 18th day of April, 2018, do hereby acknowledge and appreciate the importance of protecting the little brown bat species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Chicago hereby names the little brown bat the honorary mammal of Chicago for the year 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution are presented to the Lincoln Park Zoo as a sign of our honor, gratitude and respect.


MICHELE SMITH
Alderman, 43rd Ward

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