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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	3/14/2012
Sponsor(s):	Mitts, Emma (37)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late Harry David "Deejay" Rodriguez
Committee(s) Assignment:	

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRY DAVID “DeeJay” RODRIGUEZ, JR.

*Presented by Alderman Emma Mitts, 37th Ward
Chicago City Council – March 14, 2012*

WHEREAS, **Harry David “DeeJay” Rodriguez, Jr.**, who was born in Chicago on October 26, 1987 was a humble, kind, intelligent and extremely talented individual, who made his family and community proud as a shining example of a young person with a seemingly great future ahead of him; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2011, he was senselessly gunned down while celebrating his birthday, his family lost a great son, uncle, nephew and friend to many people in his neighborhood. Well-known for his soft-spoken and funny nature, **Harry David “DJ” Rodriguez, Jr.** loved to play sports, and treasured his beloved Chicago sports teams – the Bulls and the Bears, he also enjoyed both listening to, and playing music - - hence the nick name “DJ”; and

WHEREAS, **Harry David “DJ” Rodriguez, Jr.** was a proud graduate of Northwest Middle School, Mather High School, and was enrolled at Wright College. He dreamed of becoming a physical education teacher. The recipient of numerous awards and honors for his athleticism and academic ability; and

WHEREAS, Harry David “DeeJay” Rodriguez, Jr. was highly lauded for his exemplary character and volunteerism at the Chicago Park District’s Kelvyn Park, where he was considered an outstanding athlete, great student and mentor youth coach. Over the years, he won the following awards: The ‘Hurricane Award’, the highest honor given to a grammar school athlete; ‘honorable mentions’ for his participation on the boys basketball team (1999-2001, and 2002 & 2002), the boys gymnastic/tumbling teams (2001-2004); the floor hockey team and the boys track and field team (2001-2004) and the summer softball league (2003). He also served as a volunteer coach (basketball, 2006-2007 and 2010; and guiding his teams to basketball and softball league championships and citywide runner-up awards in 2004, 2007 and 2009-2010). He also served as a Jr. Day Camp Counselor, and Recreation Leader & Counselor. Further, he played sports at Mather High School, where he remains deeply admired; and

WHEREAS, his warm and transformative spirit made everyone who knew him proud and happy to be in his presence, and he actively sought to be a role model and mentor to younger children in his neighborhood, often treating them to Cubs games, local entertainment venues and other community outings, designed to share with them the rich tapestry of educational, recreational and cultural activities; and

WHEREAS, he was a hard-working young man, who was employed as an FTO at the Hidden Valley Ranch food manufacturing company, where he implemented shipping, receiving and logistics activities; and

WHEREAS, As a committed local youth activist, **Harry David “DeeJay” Rodriguez, Jr.** was a praiseworthy individual, an outstanding leader and a highly respected member of the Belmont-Cragin community in the city’s 37th Ward; and

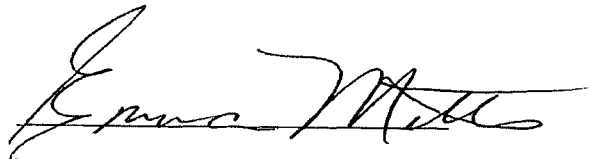
WHEREAS, since **Harry "DeeJay" Rodriguez, Jr.**, always wanted to be a physical education teacher', and devoted the last months of his life actively pursuing educational opportunities to make his dream of service as an educator to the young people of Chicago come true – a dream that will now go unrealized; however, he has set a shining example to be followed by many others; and

WHEREAS, throughout his short life, he received many award and honors, and letters of recognition from local religious, school, business, community leaders and residents, for exemplary service to as a part of his various volunteer community-related activities; and

WHEREAS, We often ask 'what is excellence'? There are many definitions. However, each of us knows excellence when we see it. Striving for excellence requires great effort for many of us. Others seem to excel effortlessly. Excellence, no matter how it is obtained, is a reflection of one's character and is considered a virtue to be treasured. **Harry David "DeeJay" Rodriguez**, you will be remembered forever as one of Chicago's true '**People of Excellence**'. Thank you again for your contributions to the city and its residents; and now, therefore,

Be It Resolved, That the Mayor of the City of Chicago, and we the members of the Chicago City Council, during it's meeting on **Wednesday, March 14, 2012**, and on behalf of all the citizens of the City of Chicago, we do hereby express our appreciation and heartfelt thanks to **Harry "DeeJay" Rodriguez, Jr.** and his family and his mother, **Mrs. Elizabeth Ramirez**, for the dedication, professionalism and personal efforts he displayed proved throughout his short life to make his corner of Chicago a much better place; and

Be It Further Resolved, That a suitable copy of the resolution be prepared and presented to the Mrs. Ramirez and the family of **Harry "DeeJay" Rodriguez, Jr.**



EMMA MITTS, ALDERMAN – 37th WARD

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