



# City of Chicago



R2015-601

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	7/29/2015
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Arena (45)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Commemoration of Margaret Haley, labor movement leader
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

## **RESOLUTION HONORING MARGARY HALEY**

WHEREAS, Margaret Haley was a leader and influential force in the American labor movement and is largely left out of history books and historical recognition; and

WHEREAS, beginning her career as a teacher, she moved to Chicago in 1882 where she taught at Hendricks School in the Stockyards district of Chicago and taught on Chicago's Southside until 1900, when she began to rise in the rank of labor leadership; and

WHEREAS, she became one of the two most important figures, alongside Catherine Goggin, in the Chicago Teachers Federation and then the American Federation of Teachers; and

WHEREAS, Haley was the first elementary school teacher to speak before the National Education Association at the St. Louis convention, and presented what would go on to be a well-known speech, "Why Teachers Should Organize", advocating for greater numbers of women in leadership roles; and

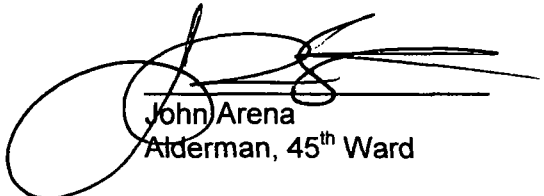
WHEREAS, also influential and tireless in the advancement of other women, Haley was instrumental in the election of Ella Flagg Young as president of the National Education Association in 1910; and

WHEREAS, Haley supported the model of social justice unionism, which connects the concerns of the union with the public, a system and organizing model still widely used in the Chicago labor movement today; and

WHEREAS, her work extended to also include championing economic justice for all by exposing tax fraud by companies bribing collectors, advocating for just pay for workers during the 1930's, and holding banks accountable during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Haley passed away in 1939 at Englewood Hospital on Chicago's Southside at age 77, and left behind no children or immediate family. Her influence and achievements to the community and the labor movement is still felt today and are deserving of official recognition by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of Chicago, assembled this twenty-ninth day of July, 2015, do hereby officially recognize the efforts of Margaret Haley to advance women leadership, economic equality, and the labor movement.



John Arena  
Alderman, 45<sup>th</sup> Ward