



# City of Chicago



R2015-581

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	7/29/2015
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Emanuel (Mayor)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Tribute to late Clark Burrus
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

July 29, 2015

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a resolution honoring the life and memory of Clark Burrus.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS**, The Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Clark Burrus, former City Comptroller, on June 17, 2015, at the age of 86; and

**WHEREAS**, Born in Chicago on November 8, 1928 to Lemmie and Mattie Hall Burrus, Mr. Burrus grew up in the City's Woodlawn neighborhood. In 1946, Mr. Burrus, a gifted athlete, graduated from Englewood High School, where he played football and basketball; and

**WHEREAS**, After graduation from high school, Mr. Burrus began his studies at Texas State University, where he played halfback on the football team, before returning to Chicago to complete both a Bachelor's degree in accounting and a Master's degree in public administration from Roosevelt University; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Burrus began his long and distinguished career in public service in 1954 as a field auditor in the Department of Aviation. Through hard work, sheer willpower and ability, Mr. Burrus moved up through the ranks to be appointed as the City Comptroller in 1974 by Mayor Richard J. Daley. Under his capable supervision, the City achieved its first AA bond rating and instituted such innovations as its first low-interest mortgage loan program; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1979, Mr. Burrus entered the private sector, serving as the Senior Vice President of the First National Bank of Chicago in the Asset and Liability Management Department, a position he held for twelve years, and at his retirement in 1998, he was the vice chair of First Chicago Capital Markets; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition to his service with the City, Mr. Burrus served as a member of the Chicago Board of Education and Chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority, where he created a \$1 billion dollar capital improvement program to rebuild the Green Line, and

**WHEREAS**, After retirement, Mr. Burrus remained active in many business and civic organizations, including the National Forum for Black Public Administrators; Regional Transit Authority; Chicago Council of Urban Affairs; Cook County State's Attorney African-American Advisory Council; Economic Development Council; Metropolitan Planning Council; Roosevelt University Board of Trustees; the Economic Development Council; Harold Washington Foundation; and Urban Gateways; and

**WHEREAS**, Renowned for being a trailblazer at a time when there were few African-Americans in positions of power at City Hall, Mr. Burrus gave generously of his time to serve as a mentor for many African-American professionals in the financial services industry; and

**WHEREAS**, An avid sports enthusiast, Mr. Burrus traveled extensively and played golf world-wide; and

**WHEREAS**, The legacy of Mr. Burrus' dedication, devotion, and hard work shall serve as an example to us all and has earned him the respect of all Chicagoans; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Burrus was greatly devoted to his family, and he is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Lucille; his daughter, Deja; his stepson, James Marshall; his two granddaughters, Karen Usher and Melinda Turner; and a host of other relatives and friends; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-ninth day of July, 2015, do hereby mourn the passing of Clark Burrus and do hereby extend our most sincere condolences to his family and friends; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Clark Burrus as a sign of our sympathy and good wishes.