



City of Chicago



R2018-686

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date:

6/27/2018

Sponsor(s):

Emanuel (Mayor)

Burke (14)

Austin (34)

O'Connor (40)

Moore (49)

Osterman (48)

Type:

Resolution

Title:

Tribute to late former Alderman Marion Volini (48th Ward)

Committee(s) Assignment:



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

June 27, 2018

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Burke, Austin, O'Connor, Joe Moore and Osterman, a resolution honoring the life and memory of our former colleague Marion Volini.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor

A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by Aldermen Edward M. Burke, Carrie M. Austin,
Patrick J. O'Connor, Joe Moore, Harry Osterman, and
Mayor Rahm Emanuel on June 27, 2018

Whereas, The Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the death on May 21, 2018, at age 83, of our former colleague, Alderman Marion Volini of the 48th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Volini was born on November 27, 1934 on Chicago's south side to Marion Mitchell and Edward Kennedy. She attended Maria High School, and later moved to the City's north side to attend and graduate from Mundelein College; and

WHEREAS, She married Camillo Volini, and they raised their five children in the Lakewood-Balmoral neighborhood. Until she began her career in politics, she worked for Chicago Public Schools as a speech therapist; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Volini was strongly committed to her neighborhood, and collaborated in the formation of the Lakewood Balmoral Residents Council. This Council was instrumental in leading efforts to upgrade the Edgewater and Uptown neighborhoods, which at that time were known as a deteriorated area; and

WHEREAS, Through her leadership and vigorous efforts, Alderman Volini improved the area, addressing issues related to the large transient population, unskilled or unemployed workers, housing shortages, negligent property owners, and vacant storefronts; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Volini also took on the many unlicensed and unregulated alcohol treatment clinics, as well as half-way houses for state-released patients of mental health facilities, in order to improve the quality of life for residents throughout her neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Volini also served her community as president of the Edgewater Community Council. Among her many accomplishments was the preservation of the Broadway Armory as a community recreation center; and

WHEREAS, With her reputation as a community leader firmly established, in 1978 Alderman Volini ran for and won a special election to serve out the unexpired term of 48th Ward Alderman Dennis Block; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Volini celebrated the broad diversity of the 48th Ward, finding great value in the wide range of housing types, ethnicities, and ages of its residents. She was an early proponent of the gay rights movement, and was a driving force in the creation of Edgewater as an official community area; and

WHEREAS, During her time as alderman, Alderman Volini served under Chicago's first female mayor, Jane Byrne. Throughout her career she was dedicated to empowering more women to run for political office; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Volini also served under Chicago's first African American mayor, Harold Washington. Drawing upon her experience as a community organizer representing a very diverse population, Alderman Volini gained national attention when she helped negotiate a compromise to a four-week stalemate between Mayor Washington and a majority of alderman opposed to his policies; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Volini's efforts on this issue caused her to emerge as a leader in the City Council. Her motivation to assume a leadership role was her belief in the equal distribution of power, and that no one should be excluded from the governmental process because of race or political ideology; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Volini's three terms in office focused on public safety, public housing, equal rights, and lakefront erosion. Her efforts helped to revitalize Edgewater's Clark Street corridor and the Bryn Mawr commercial area; and

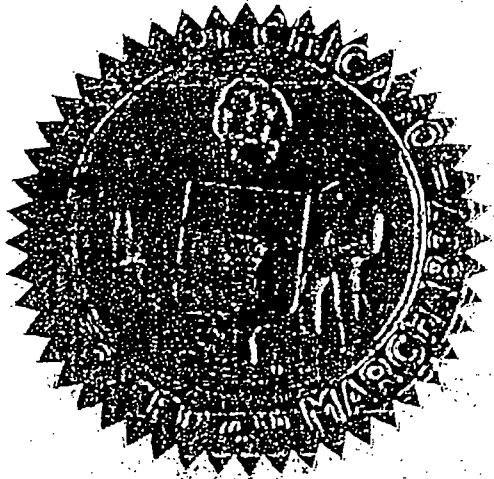
WHEREAS, After leaving office in 1987, Alderman Volini continued to serve the residents of Chicago as a mayoral appointee to the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, during which time she was instrumental in helping to make improvements to both Navy Pier and McCormick Place; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Volini was a strong advocate for her constituents, and offered her colleagues on the City Council thoughtful consideration of often difficult and controversial matters. She had an exceptional talent for finding the common ground between parties with differences, and often had friends on both sides of an issue. She had a warm, thoughtful and intelligent nature, a strong sense of fairness and a passion for justice, and will always be remembered as an exemplary public servant of the residents of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Volini, whose husband preceded her in death in 2001, is survived by her sons Michael and David; daughters Marion, Marcella, and Monica; and grandchildren Mary Claire, Nora, Tom, Joe, Matt, Ryan, Christian, Camille, Emily, and Michael; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-seventh day of June, 2018, do hereby honor the life and memory of Alderman Marion Volini; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Alderman Marion Volini as a token of our sympathy and esteem.



Ral Emanuel
MAYOR

Andrea H. Valencia
CITY CLERK