



# City of Chicago



**R2018-874**

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	7/25/2018
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Hopkins (2)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Gratitude extended to Claire Mukundente on humanitarian efforts shown to refugee and immigrant communities
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

## ***RESOLUTION***

**WHEREAS**, Claire Mukundente is not only an asset to the City of Chicago, but a mentor, role model and advocate for refugees, asylees, immigrants, youth and women across the world despite the hardships she has faced in her own life; and

**WHEREAS**, The City Council has been informed about the exceptional humanitarian work and perseverance of Claire Mukundente by the Honorable Brian Hopkins, Alderman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward; and

**WHEREAS**, Claire Mukundente left Kigali, Rwanda when she was fifteen to escape the Rwandan genocide, an ethnic conflict which brought the deaths of thousands of Rwandans. She traveled through Africa to have a better life with her husband, child and sister and they were eventually granted asylum and arrived in the United States in 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, Upon arriving in the United States, Claire and her family received generous support from Illinois families who helped them navigate their new life. For the first seven years in the United States, Claire cleaned hotel rooms to make a living; and

**WHEREAS**, After those seven years, Claire accepted a job at the Uptown Neighborhood Health Center in Chicago. In addition to working a day job at the Uptown Neighborhood Health Center, Claire also took night calls at her apartment from other refugees in the neighborhood when they needed help translating official documents or paperwork. She was fully equipped to help with language barriers as she speaks four African languages, English and some French; and

**WHEREAS**, Claire worked for Pan-African Association, a Chicago-based nonprofit, whose mission is to serve and promote the integration of refugees, asylees and immigrants from several countries. She thought of herself not just as a teacher but as someone who has lived as a refugee and is familiar with the many adverse challenges they face; and

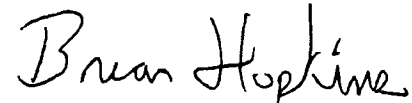
**WHEREAS**, In 2017, Claire founded Women United for Refugees and Immigrants of Illinois, a nonprofit organization focusing on providing resources, guidance, stability, compassion, expertise and skills to encourage individuals to become independent and productive members of society. Claire felt so grateful and blessed by the love and support she received upon arriving in the United States that she felt inspired to establish Women United; and

**WHEREAS**, On April 30, 2018, Claire spoke at Deerfield High School's fourth annual Genocide Commemoration Day, an event that honors victims and survivors of mass killings. She was joined by Holocaust survivor Steen Metz, and expressed a connection she felt to him as they have both experienced great hardship; and

**WHEREAS**, Despite the adversity present in her life, Claire Mukundente has proven to be a formidable opponent to the challenges she was presented with and has shown incredible perseverance throughout her life. She should not only be commended for her determination, but for her kind heart and yearning to help others; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this twenty-seventh day of June, 2018, do hereby recognize, commemorate and celebrate the dedication and incredible altruism Claire Mukundente has shown to members of the refugee and immigrant communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to Claire Mukundente as a token of our gratitude and respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Hopkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "H".

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BRIAN HOPKINS  
Alderman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward