



City of Chicago



R2022-296

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:

3/23/2022

Sponsor(s):

Sawyer (6)
Ervin (28)
Dowell (3)
Hairston (5)
Harris (8)
Moore (17)
Taylor (20)
Scott, Jr. (24)
Taliaferro (29)
Mitts (37)
Coleman (16)
King (4)
Mitchell (7)
Beale (9)
Curtis (18)
Brookins (21)
Burnett (27)
Austin (34)
Martin (47)
Hadden (49)

Type:

Resolution

Title:

Tribute to late William J. Hightower

Committee(s) Assignment:



A resolution

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

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILLY" J. HIGHTOWER, JR.

WHEREAS, in His infinite wisdom, almighty God has granted eternal peace to William "Billy" J. Hightower, Jr., a remarkable public servant and member of his community, on February 25, 2022, after a more than three-decade career with the Chicago Police Department; and

WHEREAS Billy Hightower started life as the son of the late William J. Hightower Sr. and Corine Ford Hightower on January 20, 1949. He attended Hales Franciscan and Wendell Phillips High School. Upon graduation, Billy chose to follow his father's footsteps and became a Chicago Police Cadet at the age of 17, joining the force upon completing his training despite being accepted at many universities with full scholarships, the most notable of which was Notre Dame; and

WHEREAS Billy Hightower held many prestigious posts within the Chicago Police Department, serving as a Tactical Officer, a Dignitary Security Officer providing security for U.S. Congressman Gus Savage, a Gang Crimes Officer investigating gangs for drug sales as well as a Neighborhood Relations Officer fostering and developing a positive relationship between the public and the Chicago Police Department. During his tenure as a police officer, he would annually host a Holiday Party to raise money to provide toys, coats, and other necessities to the neediest of the West Side neighborhoods. Most notably, he developed a computer lab program that provided computer access to children living in the Cabrini Green housing projects. In addition, he was active in service to his community as a member of the 27th Ward Democratic Ward Organization where he organized an annual back-to-school parade; and

WHEREAS as a political activist, Billy Hightower worked with Congressman Gus Savage, Alderman Robert Shaw, and State Representative William Shaw. While working for Secretary of State Jesse White, he served as liaison between the Illinois Secretary of State Police and other governmental agencies as well as other departments within the Illinois Secretary of State. Additionally, he was an Inspector for the Secretary of State's Office of the Inspector General; and

WHEREAS, after a thirty-year separation, William Hightower was united in Holy Matrimony to his loving wife, Cherone Robinson-Burnette, on February 15, 2020, in Oak Lawn, Illinois. However, only two years and ten days later at 5:35 a.m., Billy transitioned from this life at Christ Advocate Hospital, leaving behind to mourn his loss and cherish his memory, his beloved wife; nine children, William IV, Mario, Anthony, Angelo, Jeffrey, Sean and Vanessa, as well as bonus children Britton Robinson and Bria Burnett; his siblings Sheila (Eric), Vanessa (Richard), Avain (Annie), Alvin (Karen) Dwayne (Abby), and Bernard, along with 18 grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Roderick Sawyer, Alderman of the 6th Ward, has informed this august body of the passing of this pillar of the community, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we the mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 23rd Day of March 2022 AD, do hereby express our sincere sorrow upon the passing of William "Billy" J. Hightower, Jr. and extend our deepest condolences to his many family members and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of William "Billy" J. Hightower, Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roderick T. Sawyer".

RODERICK T. SAWYER
Alderman – 6th Ward

The following legislation is being introduced by Ald. Sawyer regarding a memorial tribute to William "Billy" Hightower, Jr. and co-sponsored by

Alderman Ward 1

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Alderman Ward 2

Pat Dowell

Alderman Ward 3

Sofia King

Alderman Ward 4

Leslie Hairston

Alderman Ward 5

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Alderman Ward 6

Greg Mitchell

Alderman Ward 7

Michelle Harris

Alderman Ward 8

Anthony Beale

Alderman Ward 9

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Alderman Ward 10

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Alderman Ward 11

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Alderman Ward 12

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Alderman Ward 13

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Alderman Ward 14

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Alderman Ward 15

Stefanie Coleman

Alderman Ward 16

David Moore

Alderman Ward 17

Derrick Curtis

Alderman Ward 18

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Alderman Ward 19

Jeanette Taylor

Alderman Ward 20

Howard B. Brookins

Alderman Ward 21

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The following legislation is being introduced by Ald. Sawyer regarding a memorial tribute to William "Billy" Hightower, Jr. and co-sponsored by

Alderman Ward 22

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Alderman Ward 23

Michael Scott

Alderman Ward 24

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Alderman Ward 25

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Alderman Ward 26

Walter Burnett

Alderman Ward 27

Jason Ervin

Alderman Ward 28

Chris Taliferro

Alderman Ward 29

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Alderman Ward 30

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Alderman Ward 31

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Alderman Ward 32

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Alderman Ward 33

Carrie Austin

Alderman Ward 34

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Alderman Ward 35

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Alderman Ward 36

Emma Mitts

Alderman Ward 37

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Alderman Ward 38

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Alderman Ward 39

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Alderman Ward 40

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Alderman Ward 41

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Alderman Ward 42

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Alderman Ward 43

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Alderman Ward 44

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Alderman Ward 45

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Alderman Ward 46

Matt Martin

Alderman Ward 47

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Alderman Ward 48

Maria Hadden

Alderman Ward 49

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Alderman Ward 50

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Mayor Lightfoot

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Clerk Valencia