



# City of Chicago



R2020-38

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	1/15/2020
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Gardiner (45)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Tribute to late John Kelly Connolly
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR JOHN KELLY CONNOLLY

**WHEREAS**, On November 23, 2019, John Kelly Connolly peacefully passed away after a four-year battle with cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, The City Council has been informed of his passing by the Honorable James M. Gardiner, Alderman of the 45th Ward; and

**WHEREAS**, John was a Chicago actor of the old, Northwest Side school, a storefront thespian with a passion for everything for which such Chicagoans are predisposed to care: the Chicago Bears, the Chicago Cubs, the more authentic of the Chicago hot dogs, and, of course, the inimitable Chicago theater, up close and very personal; and

**WHEREAS**, John performed throughout Chicago, including with the Griffin Theatre Company, Provision Theatre Company, and The New Colony, but his heart and soul was in Jefferson Park and The Gift Theatre, where he appeared in The Gift's very first show; and

**WHEREAS**, Of John's many performances, his greatest was surely the world premiere of David Rabe's *Good for Otto*, where he stole the show as a psychologically troubled character named Timothy, and for which he was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award for Actor in a Supporting Role; and

**WHEREAS**, John was known as a gentle giant and the beating heart of The Gift, making all of the ensemble feel seen, celebrated, supported, and loved; and

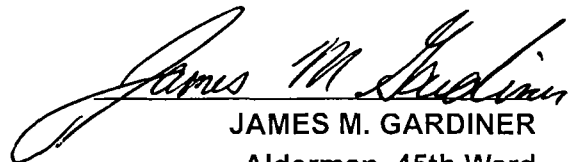
**WHEREAS**, Despite being diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer, John continued to make hundreds of entrances onto The Gift's stage, where he was surrounded by many generous souls who supported him and cheered him on during his four-year battle; and

**WHEREAS**, John is survived by his loving siblings Edward, Mary (Kurt Mussman), Thomas (Theresa), and Karen (Peter) Larsen; nieces and nephews Courtney, Liam, Luke, Eleanor, Claire, Mae, and Catherine, and many a fond friend; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this fifteenth day of January 2020, do hereby extend our most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of John Kelly Connolly; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of John Kelly Connolly as a sign of our honor, gratitude, and respect.

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JAMES M. GARDINER  
Alderman, 45th Ward

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