



City of Chicago



R2014-319

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	4/30/2014
Sponsor(s):	Burke (14)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late Claude A. Walton and call upon Chicago Park District to rename 31st Street Beach in his honor
Committee(s) Assignment:	

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Claude A. Walton has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of 100; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of his passing by Alderman Edward M. Burke; and

WHEREAS, Claude A. Walton was a longtime official with the Chicago Park District and the loving husband of Darwin; and

WHEREAS, Claude A. Walton was the much-adored father of John and Claudette and the grandfather of one to whom he imparted many of the fine and noble qualities that he possessed in abundance; and

WHEREAS, Raised in Denver, Claude A. Walton attended the University of Colorado where he studied music, excelled as a member of the track team, and supported himself by playing piano at night in Denver and Boulder clubs; and

WHEREAS, Claude A. Walton set a school record in the discus throw, blazed a trail as that institution's first African-American varsity athlete and earned the distinction of becoming the first athlete to earn All-American in any sport at the university; and

WHEREAS, Claude A. Walton aspired to compete in the 1936 Olympics, but was sidelined due to an ankle injury; and

WHEREAS, In 1937 Claude A. Walton moved to Chicago where he began his career at the Chicago Park District and became the first African-American lifeguard/attendant at the 31st Street Beach; and

WHEREAS, Claude A. Walton served in a number of positions, including Physical Instructor from 1940 to 1954, Playground Supervisor from 1954 to 1959, Park Supervisor of Recreation from 1959 to 1964, Assistant Director of Employee Activities from 1964 to 1966, Director of Employee Activities from 1966 to 1970; and Associate Superintendent from 1970 until his retirement in 1987; and

WHEREAS, During 48-year years of service, Claude A. Walton's influence was pervasive and he mentored countless young people, including future Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White; and

WHEREAS, Claude A. Walton served as a Trustee of the Park Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago from 1978 to 2010 and was Secretary for much of his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Following his retirement from the Chicago Park District, Claude A. Walton served as a Commissioner of the York Center Park District in Lombard; and

WHEREAS, In 2008 the University of Colorado awarded Claude A. Walton an honorary degree and inducted him into its Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, The hard work, sacrifice and dedication of Claude A. Walton serve as an example to all; and

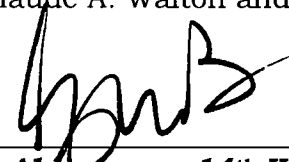
WHEREAS, Claude A. Walton will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by his many relatives, friends and admirers; and

WHEREAS, To his beloved family, Claude A. Walton imparts a legacy of faithfulness, service and dignity; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this thirtieth day of April, 2014, do hereby commemorate Claude A. Walton for his grace-filled life and do hereby express our condolences to his family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, do hereby urge the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Park District to recognize the long and distinguished service of Claude A. Walton by officially naming the 31st Street Beach in his honor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Claude A. Walton and the Chicago Park District.



Alderman - 14th Ward