



City of Chicago



R2017-308

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date: 4/19/2017

Sponsor(s): Emanuel (Mayor)
Burke (14)
Quinn (13)
O'Shea (19)

Type: Resolution

Title: Congratulations extended to Thomas Shimoda on performance at 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games

Committee(s) Assignment:

508



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

April 19, 2017

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

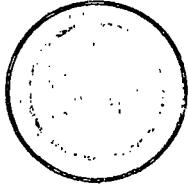
I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Burke, Quinn and O'Shea, a congratulatory resolution concerning Special Olympian Tommy Shimoda.

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**

Aldermen Matthew J. O'Shea, Edward M. Burke,
Marty Quinn, and

Presented by Mayor Rahm Emanuel **on** April 19, 2017

Whereas, Thomas Shimoda was diagnosed with autism, and relies upon a voice output device called a "talker" to assist his verbal communications; and

WHEREAS, Notwithstanding his autism, at age eight Tommy became involved with Special Olympics Chicago through the Mount Greenwood Special Recreation Association; where he developed a love for athletics and competition; and

WHEREAS, An avid athlete, Tommy has competed in over 20 different sports with the Chicago Park District over the last 20 years, including basketball, softball, volleyball, track and field, swimming, gymnastics, snowshoeing, bowling, bocce, hockey, skiing, and ice skating; and

WHEREAS, A resident of the Mount Greenwood neighborhood, Tommy is a graduate of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Tommy is still a competitor with Special Olympics Chicago, and he spends many hours each week training for speed skating at the Morgan Park Sports Center, working on drills for speed, balance, and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Tommy's training and hard work paid off in February, when he won two gold medals and a silver medal in speed skating at the Special Olympics Illinois 2016 Skating Championships; and

WHEREAS, Tommy's efforts resulted in his being selected to represent the United States as part of Team USA at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, the only Special Olympics athlete from Chicago chosen for this honor; and

WHEREAS, At the Special Olympics World Winter Games more than 3,000 athletes from around the world competed in eight Olympic-style sporting events, including speed skating; and

WHEREAS, Following a send-off party attended by well-wishers at Mount Greenwood Park, Tommy traveled to Graz, Austria with his mother, aunt, brother, two friends, and his coach, who all cheered him on as he won a gold medal in the 500-meter race, and a bronze medal in the 777 meter race; and

WHEREAS, Serving as an example to us all of how hard work and perseverance can overcome adversity and lead to success, Tommy embodies the courage present in the Special Olympics athlete oath "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt"; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being a dedicated athlete, Tommy also gives of his own time by volunteering as an assistant coach at Mount Greenwood Park; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the Members of the City Council, assembled this nineteenth day of April, 2017, do hereby express our sincere congratulations to Thomas Shimoda on his performance at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, and commend him for his dedication to athletics and service to the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Thomas Shimoda as a token of our appreciation and esteem.



Rafael Emanuel

MAYOR

Andria H. Valencia

CITY CLERK