

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In recognition of her leadership and appreciation of her tireless work improving the lives of the residents of the 5th Ward and all Chicagoans through zealous advocacy as a member of the City Council, the Members of this Chamber are pleased to congratulate Alderman Leslie Hairston, on the occasion of her retirement from the Council; and

WHEREAS, Leslie Hairston was born in Chicago and raised in the Hyde Park and South Shore neighborhoods by her parents, an educator with the Chicago Public Schools and a tavern owner who later became Chicago's first Black owner-operator of a McDonald's franchise, attending the University of Chicago Lab Schools, followed by the University of Wisconsin and Loyola University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Before being elected Alderman, Leslie Hairston worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois and in private law practice; and

WHEREAS, Leslie Hairston was first elected Alderman in 1999 after running with the goal to improve constituent services to the residents of her community; and

WHEREAS, As Alderman, Leslie Hairston fought for the \$162 million reconstruction of South Lake Shore Drive, renovations to Jackson Park and the South Shore Cultural Center, repair and enhancement of Metra stations and grounds, and general improvement to residential and commercial streets and lighting in her Ward; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Hairston oversaw the opening of new shopping malls and addition of several local and national retailers, including K&G Fashion Superstore, Anna's Linens, Staples, Aldi, Jewel/Osco, Save-A-Lot, and the city's first drive-through Starbucks; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Hairston initiated ordinances, greater police presence and CAPS involvement to address vacant lots and buildings, problem businesses and landlords, robberies and loitering; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Hairston established the only triathlon on the South Side and promoted the 5th Ward with the Midway Plaisance skating rink, Lucky Strike Bowling Alley, the Chosen Few House Music Festival, the Carifette Caribbean carnival, and public murals; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Hairston has remained true to her principles since joining City Council in 1999, sitting on five committees, and ensuring that her votes would help the residents of her Ward; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this nineteenth day of April 2023, do hereby congratulate Alderman Leslie Hairston on the occasion of her retirement; express to her our heartfelt gratitude for her exemplary service to the residents of our great City; and extend to her our best wishes for continued health, happiness, prosperity, and success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Alderman Leslie Hairston as a sign of our appreciation and esteem.