



# Office of the City Clerk



R2012-1115

Office of the City Clerk

## City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 12/12/2012  
**Sponsor(s):** Emanuel, Rahm (Mayor)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Tribute to Captain Herbert Johnson  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

SUSP.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

December 12, 2012

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a resolution honoring the life and memory of Chicago Fire Department Captain Herbert "Herbie" Johnson.

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*



Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on DECEMBER 12, 2012

**Whereas**, All of Chicago mourns the tragic loss, on November 2, 2012, at age 54, of Captain Herbert Johnson of the Chicago Fire Department, who died from injuries sustained while fighting a fire at a South Side home; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Johnson's death is a sobering reminder to all Chicagoans of the grave danger that Chicago firefighters willingly confront on our behalf every day, and of the debt of gratitude that we owe them; and

**WHEREAS**, Known widely and affectionately as "Herbie," Captain Johnson died as he had lived - a hero - after being the first firefighter to plunge into a burning building in Gage Park and save several families, including many with small children; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Johnson's passing is an immeasurable loss to the Fire Department and to the City of Chicago. In addition to his courage, strength of character and skill, his warmth and joie de vivre won the hearts of all who knew him; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Johnson came from a proud lineage of Chicago public servants: his father worked for the City's Department of Streets and Sanitation, and both of his grandfathers were Chicago police officers; and

**WHEREAS**, A veteran member of the Fire Department with more than thirty years of service, Herbie Johnson was a source of inspiration, cheer, comfort and steady leadership to all who knew him; and

**WHEREAS**, Herbie Johnson, who in addition to his firefighting duties also served as an instructor at the Fire Academy, in recent months received a well-deserved promotion to Captain; and

WHEREAS, Herbie Johnson is remembered by friends and family as an uninhibited man who loved to laugh and have fun. He once took a sewing class because he wanted to sew his daughter's first communion dress, and he attended clown school with his sister Julie; and

WHEREAS, Although he was a modest man, Herbie Johnson could not suppress the leadership, courage and humanitarianism that were an essential part of him. In 2007, he received the Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor for bravery, the highest honor given by the State to a firefighter; and

WHEREAS, Captain Johnson was all heart, giving generously of his time to those less fortunate and to the community. He supported a camp that helped burn victims, cooked for charity and drove fire engines in parades for the Fire Department. Following the terrorist attacks of 9-11, he organized colleagues to travel to New York City and spent more than a week there providing help; and

WHEREAS, Captain Herbert Johnson is survived by his wife of twenty-eight years, Susan; his three children, Laurie, Michael and Thomas; his seven siblings, his two brothers-in-law; and countless friends and colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twelfth day of December, 2012, do hereby honor the life and memory of Chicago Fire Department Captain Herbert "Herbie" Johnson; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Chicago Fire Department Captain Herbert "Herbie" Johnson as a sign of our sympathy, deep respect and good wishes.



*Ral Emanuel*

MAYOR

*Susana A. Mendez*

CITY CLERK