



Office of the Chicago City
Clerk



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Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	5/9/2012
Sponsor(s):	Balcer, James (11)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Friends of the Chicago River
Committee(s) Assignment:	

Resolution

WHEREAS, Friends of the Chicago River founded Chicago River Day in 1992 with 25 volunteers who celebrated the river by dragging old shopping carts, mattresses, and plastic bags from its banks; and

WHEREAS, those volunteers were early visionaries who, like Friends, could see past the garbage to a future for the Chicago River that was bright and hopeful and those volunteers were willing to work with Friends to make that future real; and

WHEREAS, 20 years and 43,375 Chicago River Day volunteers later, Chicago River Day has grown to 4,000 volunteers at 70 locations and the Chicago River is no longer a forgotten alleyway filled with sewage and junk. It is vibrant and alive with people in canoes, kayaks and tour boats, with 70 species of fish, 60 species of birds, and all kinds of native animals including beavers, muskrats, and snapping turtles; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate this success, from April 23 through May 12, 2012, Friends has engaged our community through Chicago River Day 20/20, hosting 20 days of activities on and beyond the banks of this beautiful natural resource culminating May 12, in the 20th Chicago River Day; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago River flows through the heart of Chicago and is now a treasured natural, recreational, and economic asset; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the Chicago River is vital to the life of the City as a place where school children can learn about nature and the environment, where families can enjoy peace and quiet, ride bikes, fish or paddle, and where wildlife can find shelter, food, and water; and

WHEREAS, continued improvement of the Chicago and Calumet River systems will help preserve Chicago's position as a world class city and as a leader in the urban conservation movement and will contribute to the creation of a new riverfront economy; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable James A. Balcer, Alderman of the 11th Ward commend Friends of the Chicago River and the 43,375 volunteers who have worked together to improve this wonderful resource for Chicago and the surrounding communities; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago assembled this 9th Day of May in 2012 A.D., do hereby salute Friends of the Chicago River for their exemplary work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Friends of the Chicago River.


ALDERMAN JAMES A. BALCER, 11th WARD