



Office of the Chicago City  
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R2011-1050

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 9/8/2011  
**Sponsor(s):** Balcer, James (11)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Congratulations extended to James Howard Thome  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

**SALUTE TO BASEBALL LEGEND JAMES HOWARD THOME**

WHEREAS, James Howard Thome is an extraordinary and noteworthy American Major League Baseball player and designated hitter currently playing for the Minnesota Twins; and

WHEREAS, Born on August 27, 1970, in Peoria, Illinois, James Howard Thome is the eighth slugger in the history of the game to hit 600 home runs in the major leagues. Originally drafted by the Cleveland Indians in 1989, he made his Major League debut on September 4, 1991 as a third baseman against his current team; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thome joins the ranks of Babe Ruth, Willie Mayes, Hank Aaron, Barry Bonds, Sammy Sousa, Alex Rodriguez, and Ken Griffey, Jr. and is also one of five whose name has not been associated with steroid-enhanced performance; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thome stayed with the Indians for more than a decade. In 1997, he was shifted to first base before he was traded to the Philadelphia Phillies in 2003. During his career in Cleveland, he hit 25 home runs, 73 runs batted in and had a .314 batting average in 1995. He hit 38 home runs in 1996, 40 in 1997 and became an outstanding home run hitter once batting the ball 511 feet, the longest home run ever recorded out of a Cleveland ballpark. He hit 49 home runs with the Indians in 2001, followed by a career-high 52 homers in 2002; and

WHEREAS, In Jim Thome's first season with the Phillies, he scored 47 home runs, finishing just one behind Baseball Hall of Fame's Mike Schmidt who held the single-season team record of 48. On June 14, 2004, Thome hit his 400<sup>th</sup> career home at Citizens Bank to become 37<sup>th</sup> on the all-time home run list. He ended the 2004 season with 42 homers, giving him 423 for his career total at that time; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, injuries caught up with Jim Thome during the first half of the 2005 season, hitting only .207 with seven home runs and 30 RBIs going into the All-Star break. He had season-ending surgery on his right elbow in August. On November 25, 2005, he was traded to this city's White Sox; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thome became the White Sox's designated hitter in April 2006 and had an extremely successful first season. He set the Sox record for most home runs in the month of April, beating Frank Thomas's record by one. He also set a major league record by scoring in each of the White Sox's first 17 games. For the season, he hit 42 homers and batted in 109 runs; and

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2007, Jim Thome hit his 500<sup>th</sup> career home run, giving the White Sox a victory over the Los Angeles Angels and becoming the 23<sup>rd</sup> major leaguer to achieve that record. 25 members of his family and friends were in attendance to witness this milestone, including his father and wife. As he rounded the bases, he pointed upward in homage to his mother who had died from breast cancer in January of 2005; and

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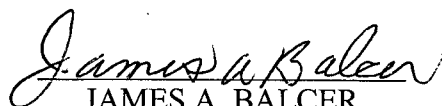
WHEREAS, Jim Thome's White Sox career was marked by several impressive feats. On June 4, 2008, he hit a 464-foot home run, which was the ninth longest home run in U.S. Cellular Field history and resulted in a White Sox victory. On August 14 of the same year, he hit the first of four consecutive home runs by the White Sox and September 30 he hit a solo shot in the American League's Central Division Championship Tiebreaker that led to the defeat of the Minnesota Twins by 1 to 0. In 2009, Jim Thome hit his 550<sup>th</sup> career home run in a win against the Oakland A's on June 1. On July 17, he hit a grand slam and a three-run homer in the same game for a career-high seven RBIs. On August 15, Thome passed Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson and moved up to 11th on the all time home run list with 564 home runs; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thome was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers but his only appearances with the Dodgers were as a pinch hitter where he had four hits in seventeen at-bats. At the inauguration of a new ballpark, Target Field, on April 12, 2010, Jim Thome was traded to the Minneapolis Twins and, for the third time in his career, was part of a ball club celebrating the inauguration of a new home, Target Field. He hit his first homer with the Twins on April 8, 2010, during the Twins' season-opening road trip and, on August 15, 2011, Jim Thome hit his 599<sup>th</sup> and 600<sup>th</sup> career home runs (in two straight at bats) at Comerica Park against the Detroit Tigers; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious career, Jim Thome has earned many monikers, "The Thomenator," "The Pride of Peoria," and, when he was in this city as a member of the White Sox, "Mr. Incredible". The Honorable James A. Balcer, Alderman of the 11<sup>th</sup> Ward and an avid White Sox fan who fervently hopes that Jim Thome can once again play for that team, has apprised this august body of the remarkable career and singular significant achievement of this remarkable athlete, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011 AD, do hereby salute James Howard Thome on his spectacular prowess as a major league player in our national pastime and offer our most sincere congratulations on surpassing 600 career home runs which so few in his profession have accomplished.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to James Howard Thome

  
JAMES A. BALCER  
Alderman - 11th Ward