



# Office of the City Clerk



R2012-1191

Office of the City Clerk

## City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 12/12/2012

**Sponsor(s):** Burke, Edward M. (14)  
Austin, Carrie M. (34)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Commemoration of Emancipation Proclamation 150th Anniversary.

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, January 1, 2013 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached the third year of its bloody civil war, President Lincoln declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free"; and

**WHEREAS**, the proclamation stated that "the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons"; and

**WHEREAS**, although the Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery in the nation, it captured the hearts and imagination of millions of Americans and fundamentally transformed the character of the Civil War; and

**WHEREAS**, after the proclamation, every advance of federal troops expanded the domain of freedom; and

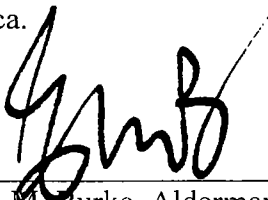
**WHEREAS**, the proclamation also announced the acceptance of African-American men into Union Army and Navy, enabling the liberated to become liberators; and

**WHEREAS**, by the close of the war, nearly 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union and freedom; and

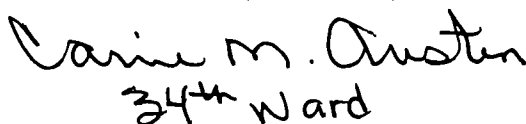
**WHEREAS**, the original of the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 is in the National Archives in Washington, DC; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the corporate authorities of the City of Chicago do hereby recognize the historical significance of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we, the Mayor, and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this twelfth day of December, 2012, encourage the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in accordance with the spirit, strength, and legacy of freedom, justice, and equality for all people of America.



Edward M. Burke, Alderman, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward



Carine M. Austin  
34<sup>th</sup> Ward