



Office of the Chicago City
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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 9/8/2011
Sponsor(s): Rahm Emanuel
Type: Resolution
Title: Chicago's 9-11 First Responders
Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, September 11, 2011 will mark the tenth anniversary of one of the most tragic events in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, On September 11, 2001, terrorists commandeered four commercial airliners, then crashed two of those aircraft into the two World Trade Center buildings in New York City, killing everyone on board and thousands more in the two towers. A third plane struck the Pentagon, killing all on board and a number of people on the ground, and the fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania after a number of brave passengers attempted to take back control of the plane; and

WHEREAS, This tragic event caused deep sorrow across the country and around the world, as people everywhere, especially the families, friends and loved ones of the victims, and also the millions who empathized with their pain, have felt this grievous loss of life; and

WHEREAS, Public safety professionals from the City of Chicago responded to this tragedy with bravery by immediately going to New York City to volunteer assistance; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Police Officers assisted the N.Y.P.D. by searching the buildings surrounding the Twin Towers for victims and any evidence from the attack. Our brave officers risked their lives, for several of these buildings had been severely damaged, with floors tilting like the deck of a listing ship. Officers searched floor by floor, marking the time, date and the words "Chicago Police Department" with a fluorescent marker to show they had found no bodies or evidence there; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Police volunteers also provided perimeter security, provided security at St. Patrick's Cathedral for the memorials to the fallen police, firefighters and civilians, and supplemented patrols in Times Square; and

WHEREAS, Dozens of Chicago firefighters also quickly traveled to New York City to assist in rescue and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, When they arrived at the scene of the terrible devastation, these dedicated men and women went to work wherever needed, ignoring the danger to themselves as they searched unstable structures for possible survivors, as well as clearing debris and performing other duties. Many firefighters slept on the sidewalk their first night in New York, while showering at a nearby high school; and

WHEREAS, Our valiant firefighters worked rotating ten-hour shifts, searching for life in tons of rubble, while fighting the fear that they too could become victims in the precarious wreckage; and

WHEREAS, These brave police and fire personnel, risking their own lives and giving freely of their own time and resources in responding to this crisis, represent the best of Chicago, and indeed, the United States; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the valiant service, actions, and sacrifices of United States personnel, including members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States intelligence agencies, the United States diplomatic service, homeland security and law enforcement personnel, and their families, who have given so much, including their lives and well-being, to support the cause of freedom and defend the security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, We salute the Chicago firefighters who are part of a group of one hundred and ninety motorcyclists who are riding to New York City for the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks. The firefighters left on September 6th from U.S. Cellular Field and will make stops at Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where Flight 93 went down, and at the Pentagon, before reaching Ground Zero on September 11th; and

WHEREAS, The United States Senate passed Senate Resolution 237, which calls upon all Americans to observe a Moment of Remembrance at 1 p.m. Eastern time (12 p.m. Central time) on September 11, 2011. At that precise time, cities and places of worship across the nation will sound sirens and ring bells in honor of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this eighth day of September 2011, do hereby honor and remember the people who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. We also pay tribute to Chicago's brave, compassionate and selfless First Responders, who through their deeds have shown, far better than words could, the essence of our great City and nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge our City's residents to join with Mayor Emanuel and the Members of the City Council in participating in the Moment of Remembrance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to a representative of our First Responders, to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City, to Pamela Tokar-Ickes, Chair of the Board of Commissioners of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and to Chris Zimmerman, Chairman of the Arlington, Virginia County Board, as a token of our gratitude and respect.

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

September 8, 2011

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a resolution regarding Chicago's 9-11 First Responders.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor