



City of Chicago



R2021-552

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 5/26/2021
Sponsor(s): Thompson (11)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Bernarda Wong
Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of 77 to her eternal reward; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of her passing by the Honorable Patrick D. Thompson, Alderman of the 11th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda S. Wong, Beloved wife of the late Albert; loving mother of Jacinta; cherished grandmother of Tinana Wong and Matthew Reddix; devoted daughter of the late Jorge and the late Virginia; dear sister of Albert Lo, William Lo, Emanuel Thomas Lo, the late George Lo, the late Charles Lo, and the late Fillis Joe; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong was born and raised in Hong Kong and came to the United States in 1962 to get her degree in social work from Blair Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong completed her master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong worked as a social worker in Chicago's Chinatown community; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong and a small group of dedicated Chinese American friends came together to bridge the gap in services for Chinese Americans in Chicago and formed the Chinese American Service League in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong became President and CEO of the Chinese American Service League; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Bernarda "Bernie" Wong, the Chinese American Service League became the largest, most comprehensive, social service agency in the Midwest dedicated to serving the needs of Chinese Americans; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong was instrumental in growing the Chinese American Service League into an organization with 500 multilingual and multicultural staffers that offers vital physical, economic, mental, and social support services; and

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WHEREAS, the hard work and dedication of Bernarda "Bernie" Wong helped numerous Chinese American Service League clients become thriving members of the greater Chicago community; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong was the first Asian American appointed to the boards of United Way of Chicago and the Chicago Public Library; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong chaired the Chicago mayor's advisory council on Asian affairs; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong was a founding board member of the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging and the Chinese Immigrant Service Agencies Network International, a network of social services organizations; and

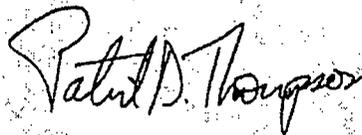
WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong developed relationships with elected officials including mayors, governors, and presidents to advocate on behalf of the residents of Chicago's Chinese American community and immigrants of all nationalities across Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Bernarda "Bernie" Wong was awarded the Champions of Change award by President Barack Obama and Chicago's Woman's History Month Legacy Award; and

WHEREAS, Her love of life and ability to live it to the fullest endeared Bernie to her family members, friends and all who knew her, and enabled her to enrich their lives in ways they will never forget; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago gathered here this twenty sixth of May 2021, do hereby express our sorrow on the death of Bernarda S. Wong and extend to her family and friends our deepest sympathy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Bernarda S. Wong,



Patrick D. Thompson
Alderman, 11th Ward