



# City of Chicago



R2017-1026

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 11/15/2017

**Sponsor(s):** Burke (14)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Recognition extended to Joe Ricketts, reporters and editors at DNAInfo, Gothamist and Chicagoist on closing of news sites

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Joe Ricketts, the owner of DNAInfo and Gothamist, recently acted to close the news sites after the New York newsroom voted to unionize; and

**WHEREAS**, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this event by Alderman Edward M. Burke; and

**WHEREAS**, DNAInfo was founded in New York in 2010 and opened a second newsroom in Chicago in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, DNAInfo's Chicago newsroom reported on crime, politics and business as well as quirky stories; and

**WHEREAS**, The hyper neighborhood-focused news organization later expanded to bureaus in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.; and

**WHEREAS**, Joe Ricketts shuttered the website Chicagoist which DNAInfo purchased as part of its acquisition of Gothamist; and

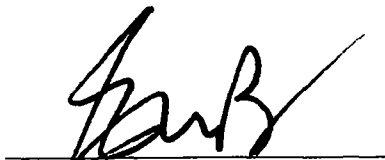
**WHEREAS**, In announcing the closures, Joe Ricketts wrote in a memo that "businesses need to be economically successful if they are to endure" and he refused to publically disclose financial results from the private company; and

**WHEREAS**, The sweeping and sudden closures laid off 115 employees nationwide while sparking controversy in the journalism community; and

**WHEREAS**, The Chicago Headline Club, the City's largest journalism association, said in a statement that it was "heartbroken to learn that DNAInfo Chicago and Chicagoist have shut down," calling their departure "terrible news for journalism, Chicago and democracy at large"; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this fifteenth day of November, 2017, do hereby express our deep regret on the closure of these news sites and do hereby applaud the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the reporters and editors at DNAInfo Chicago, Gothamist and Chicagoist; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Shamus Toomey, former Managing Editor of DNAInfo's closed Chicago office.



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*Alderman - 14<sup>th</sup> Ward*