



City of Chicago



R2022-264

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	3/23/2022
Sponsor(s):	Hadden (49)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late Steve Cunneen
Committee(s) Assignment:	

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR STEVE CUNNEEN

WHEREAS, The members of the City Council are deeply saddened by the recent passing of longtime Rogers Park resident Steve Cunneen; and

WHEREAS, As a Rogers Park resident of nearly fifty years, Steve lived for decades in a classic, Chicago three-flat on the 6600 block of North Newgard Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cunneen owned and operated a bar in Rogers Park for almost 50 years, and that bar exemplified the positive values of Chicago in general and Rogers Park in particular; and

WHEREAS, Cunneen's welcomed everyone and served as a refuge for many, exemplifying the race, gender, sexual orientation, and class diversity of Rogers Park; and

WHEREAS, The bar was also open to people who felt unwelcome elsewhere; Steve insisted that unhoused people deserved to be treated with dignity, and so could use the bathrooms, or just get a glass of water and a chance to warm up in cold weather - He treated everyone with respect; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cunneen was a person who also exemplified Chicago values. He was a self-made man from a modest background, and operated his own small independent business; and

WHEREAS, A long-time bachelor, he married late in life and was a dedicated family man who proved that it's never too late to grow; and

WHEREAS, He was a musician and a woodworker who generously made furniture, framed pictures, and did custom stained-glass work for his employees and bar regulars; and

WHEREAS, These are the values of Rogers Park and Chicago at their finest, and from 1972 till his death in 2022, Steve Cunneen presided over this vital neighborhood "third place"; and

WHEREAS, He remained in sync with the neighborhood and its values, as his bar has endured. As recently as the 1990s, there were seven taverns on Devon Avenue between Broadway and the east side of Clark Street; Cunneen's is the last of its kind; and

WHEREAS, His beloved wife Belinda has now stepped up to ensure Cunneen's stays open and continues to be a beloved neighborhood institution; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cunneen was a valued members of the 49th Ward and his loss is strongly felt by us all. He was greatly loved by his family, friends, and the community he served so faithfully; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-third day of March, 2022, do hereby honor the life and legacy of Steve Cunneen, and extend our most heartfelt condolences to family and friends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Steve Cunneen, as a token of our honor, gratitude, and respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M E Hadden", written over a horizontal line.

Maria E. Hadden
Aldерwoman, 49th Ward