



City of Chicago



R2022-1394

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:

12/14/2022

Sponsor(s):

Taylor (20)
Dowell (3)
Hairston (5)
Sadlowski Garza (10)
Coleman (16)
Scott (24)
Austin (34)
Villegas (36)
Mitts (37)
Gardiner (45)
Cappleman (46)

Type:

Resolution

Title:

Tribute to late Mattie Carey Butler

Committee(s) Assignment:

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE
AND MEMORY OF MATTIE BUTLER**

WHEREAS, Mattie Carey Butler, beloved community advocate, passed away on November 3, 2022; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of Mattie's passing by the Honorable Jeanette B. Taylor, Alderwoman of the 20th Ward; and

WHEREAS, The youngest of five children, Mattie was born to Arvelia and JT Butler in Sunflower, Mississippi, on April 25, 1943; and

WHEREAS, Mattie was an impressive musical talent, touring the United States for 40 years performing with her brothers Jerry and William and recording with music legends including collaborations with Curtis Mayfield, Mavis Staples, and Aretha Franklin; and

WHEREAS, Not believing in mastering only a single talent, Mattie was also a master modiste who created stage costumes for fellow entertainers; and

WHEREAS, Motivated by the power of a united community that she experienced while living in Cabrini Green as a child, in 1964, a 19-year-old Mattie embarked upon a career in public service, beginning her calling as an employment counselor at the YMCA; and

WHEREAS, After resettling in the Woodlawn community, Mattie co-founded the nonprofit Woodlawn East Community and Neighbors (WeCan) in 1980 with Eddie Mae Johnson, following an arson fire that claimed the lives of 13 children; and

WHEREAS, Under 40 years of Mattie's leadership, WeCan went on to become a food pantry, employment training facility, youth service agency, and an affordable housing development agency, including developing affordable housing and pathways to homeownership through her "Step-Up" housing program, preserving 5,420 units of housing from being demolished, and directly providing 108 units of affordable housing to Woodlawn residents; and

WHEREAS, In her 55 years of public service, Mattie Butler was a warrior for affordable housing, community economic development, and the empowerment of Chicago's African-American community; A fierce and relentless advocate throughout her life, Mattie developed several other nonprofit organizations and supported community leaders who have continued to lift her legacy of social justice; and

WHEREAS, Mattie has received national recognition for her work in public service, including becoming one of the first National Petra Fellows for Justice in 1989, receiving a full scholarship for a Master of Science degree in Community Economic Development from the Southern New Hampshire Graduate School of Business at the age of 50, and receiving a host of other awards, including the Neighborhood Institute Recognition Award, the Crossroads Funds Honoree Award, the Harold Washington Bridge Builder Award, the CEDA Recognition Award, the Chicago Rehab Network Developer of the Year Award, the Cook County Outstanding Community Leader Award, the ComEd Renaissance Illinois Inaugural Partnership Award, the Chicago Real Estate Executive Woman's Award, the State of Illinois Treasurer's Community Service Award, and the Bank of America Local Hero Award; and

WHEREAS, Mattie's unrelenting commitment to God supported her throughout her life; she demonstrated the love of Christ through dedication to her family, community service work, and her support of countless members of her community, serving as church mother at Almighty Love Christian Center under Pastor Joseph Clark; and

WHEREAS, Mattie was preceded in death by her siblings Lula Mae, Dorothy, and William "Billy", and is survived by her children Venus Scott, William, and Jerry Armstrong, her brother Jerry Butler; grandchildren: Jabari Armstrong, Amani Armstrong, Amare Armstrong, Kamau Armstrong, Tavon Armstrong, Aisha Armstrong, Tan'lesha Armstrong, Tasha Butler-Scott, James Scott, Jr (Darlane), great-grandchildren: Devin Scott, Maya Scott, Jhenira Brown, Jamil Brown, and Jasime Brown; Mattie lives on in the hearts of a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, mentees, friends, residents, and community workers; and

WHEREAS, Mattie's legacy reaches beyond the housing she provided, the food she fed to others, the employment she offered, and the determination she demonstrated; Mattie's legacy lives in the hearts of those she taught to do the same; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this fourteenth day of December, 2022, do hereby honor the life and legacy of Mattie Carey Butler; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Mattie Carey Butler as a sign of our honor and respect.



JEANETTE B. TAYLOR
Alderwoman, 20th Ward



CITY OF CHICAGO

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
ANNA M. VALENCIA

Chicago City Council Co-Sponsor Form

Document No.: **R2022-1394**

Subject: **Resolution to Honor the Life of Mattie C. Butler**

Adding Co-Sponsor(s)

Please ADD Co-Sponsor(s) Shown Below – (Principal Sponsor's Consent Required)

Alderman *James Gardiner* 45 Ward)
(Signature)

Alderman _____ Ward)
(Signature)

Date Filed: _____

Principal Sponsor: _____
(Signature)

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Please REMOVE Co-Sponsor(s) Below – (Principal Sponsor's Consent NOT Required)

Alderman _____ Ward)
(Signature)

Alderman _____ Ward)
(Signature)

Date Filed: _____

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- Chairman of Committee to which legislation was referred
- City Clerk



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Alderman **Pat Dowell**

(Signature)

3

Ward)

Alderman _____

(Signature)

Ward)

Date Filed: **12/8/2022**

Principal Sponsor: _____

(Signature)

Removing Co-Sponsor(s)

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Alderman _____

(Signature)

Ward)

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Alderman *Leticia A. Hunter* (5 Ward)
(Signature)

Alderman _____ (Ward)
(Signature)

Date Filed: 12/8/2022

Principal Sponsor: *JB*

(Signature)

Removing Co-Sponsor(s)

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Alderman _____ (Ward)
(Signature)

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Alderman SUSAN SADLOWSKI GARZA Susan Sadlowski Garza 12 Ward)
(Signature)

Alderman _____ (_____) Ward)
(Signature)

Date Filed: 12/8/2022

Principal Sponsor: [Signature]
(Signature)

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(Signature)

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Alderman _____

Stephanie Coleman
(Signature)

(16) Ward)

Alderman _____

(Signature)

() Ward)

Date Filed: 12/8/2022

Principal Sponsor: _____

J.B.J.
(Signature)

(Signature)

Removing Co-Sponsor(s)

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Alderman _____

(Signature)

() Ward)

Alderman _____

(Signature)

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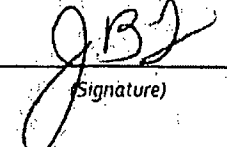
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Please ADD Co-Sponsor(s) Show in Below – (Principal Sponsor's Consent Required)

Alderman  (24 Ward)
(Signature)

Alderman _____ (____ Ward)
(Signature)

Date Filed: 12/8/2022 Principal Sponsor: 
(Signature)

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Alderman _____ (Signature) **36TH** Ward)

Alderman _____ (Signature) _____ Ward)

Date Filed: **12/8/2022** Principal Sponsor: **JB** (Signature)

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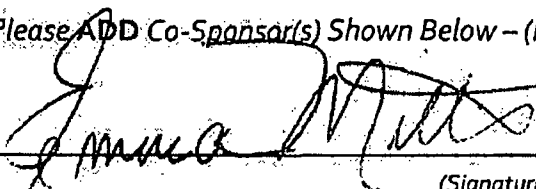
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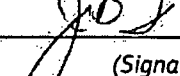
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Alderman  **(37)** Ward)
(Signature)

Alderman _____ **()** Ward)
(Signature)

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Principal Sponsor: 
(Signature)

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Alderman James Harding 45 Ward)
(Signature)

Alderman _____ Ward)
(Signature)

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Principal Sponsor: JBJ
(Signature)

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Alderman _____ (Signature) _____ (Ward)

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