



# City of Chicago



**R2018-95**

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	1/17/2018
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Burke (14) Thompson (11)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Commemoration of 50th anniversary of Mickelberry Food Products Company explosion and tribute to victims
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, On February 7, 1968 a series of explosions tore through a sausage factory and destroyed the general offices of the Mickelberry Food Products Company at 801 West 49<sup>th</sup> Place in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Nine individuals, including four Chicago firefighters and the President of the Mickleberry Company, were killed and more than seventy people were rushed to hospitals and dozens more treated on the scene for injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, The tragedy began when a gasoline tanker truck, on site to fill the company's gas tanks, struck a garbage container while driving through an alley, knocking the valve off the tanker's discharge pipe; and

**WHEREAS**, Gasoline poured through an alley doorway and down into the basement of the building where a boiler ignited the fire and resulted in two explosions; and

**WHEREAS**, As firefighters responded to the fire at the plant, a third more powerful blast erupted and threw firefighters from their ladders; and

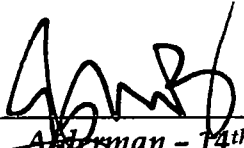
**WHEREAS**, The third blast was so powerful that it hurled bricks as far as three blocks away and propelled a portion of a glass block window across the street with such force that it left an imprint in a brick building; and

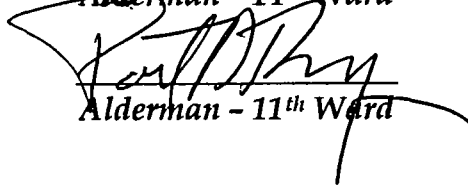
**WHEREAS**, Following the blast, which leveled most of the plant and administrative offices, a 5-11 alarm fire was declared and more than 300 firefighters responded; and

**WHEREAS**, A ceremony will be held on February 7, 2018 at the corner of 49<sup>th</sup> Place and Halsted Street to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mickelberry explosion; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this seventeenth day of January, 2018, do hereby commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mickelberry explosion and pay homage to those who lost their lives in this tragedy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented Captain Anthony Ferenzi of the Chicago Fire Department.

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

  
Alderman - 11<sup>th</sup> Ward