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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	12/14/2011
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Reilly, Brendan (42)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Tribute to Late James C. Tyree
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

Tribute to Late James C. Tyree

WHEREAS, James C. "Jim" Tyree was the much adored father of Jessica, twins Matthew and Joseph and husband of Eve to whom he imparted many of the fine, noble and philanthropic qualities that he possessed in abundance; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 30, 1957, James Tyree, the youngest of seven children, grew up in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, where he attended Saint Barnabas Elementary School and Marist High School. Working a variety of jobs that included selling stereos, caddying and driving a forklift to help pay for his education, James Tyree earned a Bachelor's degree in 1978 and a Master's degree in 1980 from Illinois State University, and earned the CPA designation; and

WHEREAS, The quintessential Chicago success story of overcoming a difficult childhood through hard work and dedication to become one of the City's most successful businessmen, in 1980, James Tyree joined Mesirow Financial, a diverse financial services company, as a research analyst, and quickly rose through the ranks to become President in 1990 at the young age of 32, Chief Executive Officer in 1992, and Chairman in 1994, a position he served in until his death; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, James Tyree led Mesirow Financial to exceptional levels of growth in all areas of the business of over \$500 million in revenues and 1,200 employees, and acquisitions of numerous firms such as Stein & Company, a premium real estate organization, Near North Insurance Brokerage's Chicago office, Dann Insurance, and the United States Corporate Recovery Practice from KPMG LLP; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, James Tyree led an investment group that took the Chicago Sun-Times' parent company out of bankruptcy, a media firm that publishes 58 newspapers and corresponding websites and had nearly 2,000 employees; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, James Tyree was appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley to serve as Chairman of the City Colleges system with seven colleges and more than 121,000 students, where he served with pride and distinction for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, A well-respected and admired member of the business community throughout his long and distinguished career, James Tyree served on more than 50 corporate and civic boards, including the Civic Committee of The Commercial Club of Chicago; the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce; the Executives' Club of Chicago; and the Economic Club of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, James Tyree, whose drive to succeed in business was only surpassed by his deep commitment to the community, will always be remembered as a tireless advocate for organizations that support health care, education and children, including serving on the board of the Big Shoulders Fund; Ulich Children's Network; the Illinois State University Foundation; the Illinois Institute of Technology; the Illinois Education Foundation; the University of Chicago Medical Center; Chairman of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Illinois Chapter, where he was a life member of the board and named the organization's 2004 Person of the year; and

WHEREAS, James Tyree was an amazing leader in every aspect of his life. James was presented the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010; he was honored by the American Diabetes Association as Father of the Year in 2010; in 2009 James was the Moderator at the TMA Annual Conference Executive Discussion featuring President George W. Bush; James was honored at the 2009 LaRabida Awards Benefit for his "Corporate Involvement"; James was awarded the 2009 Bridge Advocate Award from Chicago United; James was a speaker at the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship Conference in 2009; James was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Chicago Association for Corporate Growth in 2008; James was elected Chairman of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce in 2007; he participated in Innovate! Now, a summit for business in 2006; James was elected Chairman of the Executives' Club of Chicago in 2006; he was awarded the Richard Daley Medal by Illinois Venture Capital Association in 2004; in 2004 James was elected Chairman of JDRF's One Billion Dollar Campaign to accelerate a cure for diabetes; he was awarded The Children's Place Association "Chicago Champion for Children" award in 2003; James was a Principal for a Day in the Chicago Public Schools in 2002, 1999 and 1998; he was awarded the Americanism Award by the Anti-Defamation League in 2001; James was awarded the Civic Leadership Award by the American Jewish Committee in 1998; James was recognized as one of Crain's "40 Under 40" in 1992.

WHEREAS, Renowned for his great generosity, James Tyree selflessly gave of his time and money to many charities, and championed research on diabetes ultimately raising more than \$60 million for a disease that affected hundreds of thousands of children and adults; and

WHEREAS, James Tyree was a native Chicagoan, a city he loved and called home; and

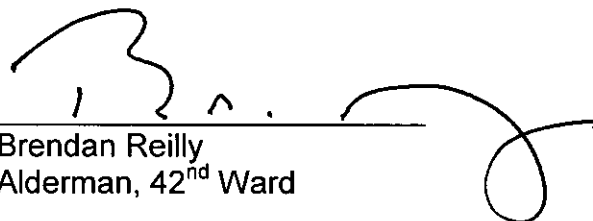
WHEREAS, James Tyree was an inspirational leader whose life was characterized by a decency, integrity and goodness seldom equaled, and through all of his endeavors, he complemented his honesty and passion with a refreshing sense of humility; and

WHEREAS, Although James Tyree will be greatly missed by his family, friends and colleagues, his memory will live on in their hearts forever; now therefore

WHEREAS, The Honorable Brendan Reilly, Alderman of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward, has introduced legislation to re-name a portion of West Carroll Avenue as Honorary James Tyree Way in recognition of his many public-spirited accomplishments; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, assembled on this fourteenth day of December, 2011 A.D., do hereby commemorate James Tyree for his grace-filled life and do hereby express our condolences to his family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of James Tyree.



Brendan Reilly  
Alderman, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward