



City of Chicago



R2015-632

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	7/29/2015
Sponsor(s):	Burke (14)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Francesca Maher Edwardson on dedicated service with American Red Cross, Greater Chicago Region
Committee(s) Assignment:	

WHEREAS, Francesca Maher Edwardson, Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross, Greater Chicago Region, a chartered unit of the American Red Cross, has announced her intention to step down from her position in early 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of her retirement by Alderman Edward M. Burke; and

WHEREAS, Francesca Maher Edwardson has provided outstanding guidance and leadership to the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago, serving more than 9.4 million people in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties and Northwest Indiana for more than ten years; and

WHEREAS, Francesca Maher Edwardson is the daughter of the late Edward Marciniak, former Deputy Commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Development and Planning and President of the Chicago Institute of Urban Life at Loyola University, and Virginia Volini Marciniak, the founder of Arts North; and

WHEREAS, Francesca Maher Edwardson is a graduate of Loyola University with degrees in economics and law, both earned with honors; and

WHEREAS, In May 1984, Francesca Maher Edwardson received an appointment to serve as Director of the Securities Department for the State of Illinois from Secretary of State Jim Edgar; and

WHEREAS, As the first woman to hold this key posting, Francesca Maher Edwardson served with distinction until January 1987; and

WHEREAS, Upon leaving state government, Francesca Maher Edwardson joined the corporate/securities group as a partner at the Chicago office of the law firm of Mayer Brown from 1989 to 1993; and

WHEREAS, UAL Corporation, a predecessor to United Continental Holdings Inc., and its principal subsidiary United Airlines, appointed Francesca Maher Edwardson Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary; and

WHEREAS, In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Francesca Maher Edwardson, as a member of the corporate executive team, effectively met the overwhelming challenges facing UAL and helped steer the company through the crises; and

WHEREAS, The American Red Cross, Greater Chicago Region, selected Francesca Edwardson to serve as Chief Executive Officer, succeeding the retiring William L. Braden on January 10, 2005; and

WHEREAS, With a strong commitment to furthering the cause of humanitarian and volunteerism within the region, Francesca Maher Edwardson elevated the profile of The American Red Cross, Greater Chicago Region in its mission to feed, clothe and house the victims of fire, flood and other disasters; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as Chief Executive Officer, Francesca Maher Edwardson spearheaded many innovative programs including Ready Rating, an on-line pilot program to assist area businesses and schools by providing aquatic training and preparing for disaster; and

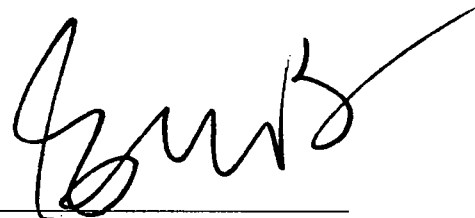
WHEREAS, Under the skilled leadership of Francesca Maher Edwardson, The American Red Cross, Greater Chicago Region has raised significant funding to support ongoing relief efforts to aid victims of the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Francesca Maher Edwardson has served in volunteer leadership positions for many non-profit and professional organizations, and currently sits on the Boards of Trustees of the Lincoln Park Zoo and the Rush University Medical Center and the Boards of Directors of JB Hunt Transport Services, Inc. and The Chicago Network; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of her career Francesca Maher Edwardson has been accorded many individual honors and accolades; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council assembled this twenty-ninth day of July 2015, do hereby recognize and thank Francesca Maher Edwardson for her distinguished service and leadership of the American Red Cross, Greater Chicago Region and wish her continued success and happiness as she begins this next chapter of her life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Francesca Maher Edwardson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Burke', is written over a horizontal line.

Alderman Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward