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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	9/12/2012
Sponsor(s):	Fioretti, Bob (2)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Glessner House
Committee(s) Assignment:	

SALUTE TO THE QUASQUICENTENNIAL OF THE GLESSNER HOUSE

WHEREAS, In late 19th century, the South Side's Prairie Avenue was considered one of Chicago's most prominent residential streets. It was here that John Jacob Glessner, one of the founders of the fourth largest corporation in the nation, International Harvester, chose to build an iconic mansion on the southwest corner at 18th Street; and

WHEREAS, Glessner chose the late-19-century architect Henry Hobson Richardson, who had developed the Richardsonian Romanesque style, to design and build what today is a National Historic Landmark. One of the most important residential commissions of the 19th century, the walls of the house were pushed close to the sidewalks that allowed for a spacious private courtyard with abundant natural light flooding the main rooms of the house through south-facing windows. The unique plan provided a level of privacy rarely achieved in urban residences with a long servant hall placed on the north side of the house that insulated the family from the noise and dirt of 18th Street as well as the harsh winter winds; and

WHEREAS, When Glessner died in 1936, the house was given to the American Institute of Architects, who returned it to the family because they could not afford the upkeep necessary. In 1937, the family deeded the house to the Armour Institute that is today known as the Illinois Institute of Technology. In 1945, the Institute leased the house to the Lithographic Technical Foundation, which installed large printing presses in many of the rooms and conducted research for the printing industry. When the Foundation moved to Pittsburgh in the early 1960s, the house was scheduled for demolition. However, a consortium of architects and preservationist purchased it in 1966 for just \$35,000; and


WHEREAS, Within a few years, Glessner descendants began donating back the original furnishings allowing many of the rooms to be accurately restored. The house was opened for public tours in 1971. Today, several thousand people visit the site annually for tours and programs; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to the generous underwriting of philanthropist and financier Richard H. Driehaus, a gala celebrating the quasquicentennial of the Glessner House will take place on September 13, 2012 in the Symphony Center's Grainger Ballroom on South Michigan Avenue honoring Marion and Leon Despres, Philip Johnson, Phyllis Lambert, C. F. Murphy & Associates, Perkins & Will; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Harry Weese & Associates and Ben Weese, the individuals and firms who saved the Glessner House from the wrecking ball in 1966; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert W. Fioretti, Alderman of the 2nd Ward, has apprised this august body of the 125th Anniversary celebration of this seminal architectural gem and the beneficence of Richard H. Dreihaus; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 12th Day of September, 2012 AD, do hereby salute the 125th anniversary of Glessner House and express our deepest appreciation to Richard H. Dreihaus for his continuing support of this and other preservation efforts throughout the metropolitan area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to Richard H. Dreihaus and the Glessner House Foundation.



ROBERT W. FIORETTI
Alderman - 2nd Ward