



City of Chicago



R2018-1006

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	9/20/2018
Sponsor(s):	Burke (14)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Commissioner Jose A. Santiago on retirement from Chicago Fire Department
Committee(s) Assignment:	

WHEREAS, José A. Santiago is retiring after completing twenty-nine years of service to the City of Chicago and the Chicago Fire Department including six years of distinguished leadership as Commissioner; and

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

WHEREAS, José A. Santiago is the only son of a working-class family from the Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, at the age of seventeen, José A. Santiago enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and rose from the rank of private to Commanding Officer of H & S Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment 4th Marine Division in a thirty-two-year career that spanned both active and reserve duty; and

WHEREAS, as a Commanding Officer he was responsible for the training and supervision of 253 U.S. Marines; and

WHEREAS, during his years of Marine Corps service, José A. Santiago was actively deployed during Operation Frequent Wind, Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner José A. Santiago attained a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, José A. Santiago returned to Chicago in 1975; and

WHEREAS, he successfully completed the entrance examination and joined the Chicago Fire Department in September 1979 after placing number ten on the hiring list; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Fire Department assigned him to Engine No. 76; and

WHEREAS, during the twenty-three day strike of Chicago firefighters from February 14 to March 7, 1980, rookie firefighter José A. Santiago monitored the fire radio and personally responded to fires in progress in order to save lives and property while keeping faith with the aims of striking union brethren by not crossing the picket line; and

WHEREAS, known for his personal bravery and deeply admired by his peers within the department, José A. Santiago served as Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner for Fire Suppression, directing and managing over 4,400 uniformed members and 250 pieces of apparatus; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2010, former Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed José A. Santiago Executive Director of the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) overseeing the 911 center during the final year of Mayor Daley’s administration; and

WHEREAS, José A. Santiago served in this capacity from March 2010 to June 2011; and

WHEREAS, José A. Santiago left OEMC to return to the Chicago Fire Department as Deputy Fire Commissioner, Bureau of Operations; and

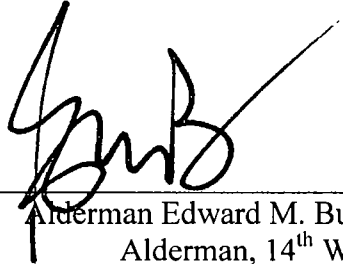
WHEREAS, on February 16, 2012, Mayor Rahm Emanuel appointed José A. Santiago Fire Commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department, succeeding Commissioner Robert Hoff; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Fire Department is the third largest municipal fire department in the United States with 5,000 sworn members responding to over 500,000 emergency calls annually; and

WHEREAS, during his six-year tenure, Commissioner José A. Santiago established the Chicago Fire Department as a leader in the nation’s fire service by implementing several best practices, including sweeping changes to the incident command policies with the use of innovative technology; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council assembled this twentieth day of September 2018, do hereby congratulate Commissioner José A. Santiago on his retirement and thank him for thirty-nine years of distinguished public service to the City of Chicago and its’ citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Commissioner José A. Santiago.


Alderman Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward