



# City of Chicago



R2016-408

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Meeting Date:</b>            | 6/22/2016                   |
| <b>Sponsor(s):</b>              | Austin (34)                 |
| <b>Type:</b>                    | Resolution                  |
| <b>Title:</b>                   | Tribute to late Leo Watkins |
| <b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b> |                             |

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, God in His Infinite Wisdom has called Leo Watkins, most beloved citizen and friend of his community, to his eternal reward on June 2, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, This august body has been informed of his passing by the Honorable Carrie M. Austin, Alderman of the 34th Ward and Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Government Operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Leo Watkins was born on March 2, 1925 in Chicago, Illinois. He attended Wendell Phillips High School and shortly after graduation he joined the United States Navy. Leo became the first black Boatswain Mates during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, Leo began his career in Law Enforcement and was a Chicago Police Officer for over thirty years. His dedication to and fulfillment of the motto of the Chicago Police Department - "We Serve and Protect" – was a personal badge of honor; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the years, Leo continued his membership with the World War II Black Navy Vets, Chicago Police Noble (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement) and Guardian Organization "Mason"; and

**WHEREAS**, A devoted family man, Leo and his late wife of 49 years, Ida, were blessed with five children; Donald, LaRita, Sheila, Linda and Leola. A traveler at heart, he delighted in taking his family on many vacations. He and his wife made it a priority for the family to spend quality time together; and

**WHEREAS**, Family fellowship was important, education was essential. Leo stressed the importance of higher education to his children and every generation thereafter. He was a great historian and enjoyed sharing his knowledge with people. He was compassionate to the less fortunate, offering food to those in need and sharing his famous quote "Don't be shamed face"; and

**WHEREAS**, Leo will be remembered as a man of quiet strength and grace with a warm and welcoming smile. What a testament to a man whose influence has encouraged so many; and

**WHEREAS**, Leo Watkins was an individual of great integrity and accomplishments who will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by his many relatives, friends and admirers. The hard work, sacrifice and dedication of Leo Watkins serves as an example to all; now, therefore

**Be It Resolved**, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this twenty second day of June, 2016 A.D., do hereby express our sorrow on the death of Leo Watkins and express to his family and friends our deepest sympathy; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Leo Watkins as a token of our honor, gratitude and respect.



CARRIE M. AUSTIN  
Alderman, 34<sup>th</sup> Ward

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