



City of Chicago



R2017-256

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date:	3/29/2017
Sponsor(s):	Sawyer (6)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Gaylord M. Thomas on 70th birthday
Committee(s) Assignment:	

SALUTE TO GAYLORD M. THOMAS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 70th BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS, For more than two decades Gaylord M. Thomas, an outstanding citizen and member of his community, has been a driving force for violence prevention and intervention efforts in the African American and Latino neighborhoods in this city as well as the cities of Dekalb and Rockford here in Illinois along with the cities of Indianapolis, Indiana, Muskegon, Michigan and Columbus, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Gaylord Thomas was born on March 27, 1947 and raised in this city's Park Manor neighborhood on the South Side where he attended Salem Lutheran Church and the Chicago Public Schools, served his country in combat during the Vietnam conflict, and matriculated at DePaul University. As a father of six children and a grandfather, he still resides in that same community where he serves as an Elder in the Park Manor Neighbors organization; and

WHEREAS, The impressive contributions of Gaylord Thomas to community growth, development, and health of African-American youth has reached beyond his home community. He was instrumental in the founding and development of Safe In My Brother's Arms (SIMBA) and Safe In My Sister's Arms (SIMSA) Circle, a religious-based rights-of-passage camping ministry for at-risk African-American males and females; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) partnered with this organization to establish the Shekinah Chapel where Thomas was one of the Founding Fathers and continues to serve on its board. Today SIMBA/SIMSA has chapters in five other cities as well as Chicago that offer young African American men and women a safe space to examine their lives, their choices, and their futures, thanks in no small part to the pioneering efforts of Gaylord Thomas; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Roderick Sawyer, Alderman of the 6th Ward, has informed this august body of this preeminent citizen's significant civic contributions; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 29th Day of March, 2017 AD, hereby salute Gaylord M. Thomas on the occasion of his 70th birthday and express our gratitude for his distinguished service in promoting mediation and coalition building in urban areas that have suffered from decay, violence, and poverty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Gaylord M. Thomas.



RODERICK T. SAWYER
Alderman - 6th Ward