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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 3/14/2012  
**Sponsor(s):** Emanuel, Rahm (Mayor)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Heroic Rescue Lietenant Martin Nolan  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

# A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*  
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on MARCH 14, 2012

**Whereas**, On Sunday, February 19, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., Engine 83, Truck 22 and Ambulance 31, along with Battalion 5, responded to a report of a distressed person in the water at Montrose Harbor; and

**WHEREAS**, Arriving on the scene, Chicago firefighters quickly spotted a young woman in twenty feet of icy water approximately twenty-five feet from shore; and

**WHEREAS**, Engine 83, Truck 22 and Ambulance 31 were the first units called to the scene, given their extensive training and experience in water rescues; and

**WHEREAS**, These First Responders set up the necessary equipment to effect a water rescue. Although the Chicago Fire Department Dive Team truck and Air Sea Rescue units were en route, the personnel on the scene had to act immediately in order to save this victim's life; and

**WHEREAS**, Once Chicago Fire Department personnel put on their personal flotation devices, Lieutenant Martin Nolan climbed over the locked and chained dock access gates to get closer to the victim; and

**WHEREAS**, Personnel of Engine 83 and Truck 22 threw flotation devices to the victim but the woman was too exhausted to respond or attempt to swim to the devices; and

**WHEREAS**, Acting without hesitation, Lieutenant Nolan took off his coat and his portable radio and jumped into the frigid waters of Lake Michigan. Swimming as fast as he could to the nearest flotation device, he then made his way to the victim. Lieutenant Nolan reached her and held on to her tightly, since she was beginning to slip beneath the surface. Still holding onto the victim and the flotation device, which was attached to a tow line, he began swimming back to shore, with personnel of Engine 83 and Truck 22 on shore pulling the two of them up to the seawall; and

*WHEREAS*, Once Lieutenant Nolan reached the pier, a twenty-foot straight-frame ladder was lowered into the water. The personnel of Engine 83 and Truck 22 hoisted the ladder up the eight-foot seawall with Lieutenant Nolan holding onto the rungs with one hand and the victim with the other; and

*WHEREAS*, Ambulance 31 personnel immediately treated the victim for water ingestion and hypothermia before taking her to Weiss Hospital in stable condition; and

*WHEREAS*, The heroic and selfless actions taken by Lieutenant Nolan and the personnel of Engine 83, Truck 22 and Ambulance 31 once again demonstrate the professionalism and dedication which are ingrained in every member of the Chicago Fire Department; now, therefore,

*BE IT RESOLVED*, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this fourteenth day of March, 2012, do hereby honor Lieutenant Martin Nolan for his valiant water rescue of a woman facing certain death; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Lieutenant Martin Nolan of the City of Chicago Fire Department, and placed on permanent record in his personnel file, as a token of our appreciation and esteem.



*Rafael Emanuel*  
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MAYOR

*Suzana A. Mendez*  
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