



Office of the Chicago City
Clerk



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Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	6/6/2012
Sponsor(s):	Fioretti, Bob (2)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late Paul Westley Davis
Committee(s) Assignment:	

TRIBUTE TO PAUL WESTLEY DAVIS

WHEREAS, In His Infinite Wisdom, Almighty God has granted eternal rest to Paul Westley Davis, an outstanding public servant, political leader and member of his community; and

WHEREAS, Paul Westley Davis began life on March 1, 1957 as the son of John Westley and Shirley Ann Davis and the oldest of five siblings. He was raised on the South Side of this city in the Parkway Gardens and the Chatham communities. He attended Dulles Elementary where, later in life, he served as Principal for a Day. It was at that school he developed an interest in community work through his membership in the Boy Scouts, collecting funds for Misericordia charities and his parent's involvement in 6th and 8th Ward politics; and

WHEREAS, Paul Davis was an excellent athlete when he matriculated to Hirsch High School in this city and Simpson College in Iowa. He was nicknamed "Jet" due to his running speed both in track events such as the 60 or 100-yard dash, the 440 and relay races as well as in the position of his team's wide receiver on the gridiron. At college he pledged Phi Beta Sigma, was president of the Black Student Union and was invited to compete in the Olympic trials; and

WHEREAS, Paul Davis was a faithful member of the Stony Island Church of Christ, attending Sunday School, Wednesday night Bible classes, administering communion and delivering prayers and the Scriptures. He was also a devoted son. In 2007, he moved back home to help his mother care for his ailing father; and

WHEREAS, Paul Davis served as press secretary to Harold Washington when he was a Congressman and was the youngest member of Washington's cabinet when he became this city's first African-American Mayor. He was an integral member of the late Mayor's inner circle; and

WHEREAS, After Mayor Washington's passing, Paul Davis established and ran his own public relations and government advocacy agency, First Trace Communications, the title of which commemorates his younger brother who preceded him in passing. In addition to prominent African-American political clients, the Gift of Hope Foundation, the Amalgamated Transit Workers Union, the American Family Life Assurance Company (AFLAC) and the Georgia Doty Health Educational Fund were among his institutional "A" List clients. It was he who created the Kidney Educational Consortium to address the very real prevalence of kidney diseases and related conditions in poorer communities; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Paul Westley Davis was a noteworthy leader, manager and coach in all things political. He managed races for such diverse candidates as U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis, Illinois Comptroller Dan Hynes, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County Dorothy Brown, 2nd Ward Alderman Robert W. Fioretti and the Reverend Paul Jakes as well as consulting on several suburban campaigns; and

WHEREAS, In a professional and civic capacity, Paul Westley Davis has served as vice president of the Danielle Ashley Advertising & Public Relations firm and the Human Resources Development Institute (HRDI). He was managing editor of Citizen Newspapers and general superintendent of the City of Chicago's Bureau of Forestry in addition to having been the mayor's press secretary. Davis was active in the Citywide Coalition Against Tobacco-Alcohol Billboards on the South Side. His commitment to this cause was so strong that he would never take a client who was a purveyor of these substances and never smoke or drank himself; and

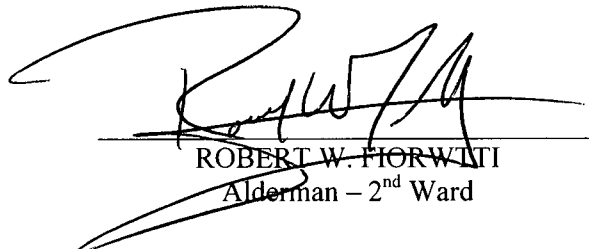
WHEREAS, Paul Westley Davis was a founder and active member of the Black Publications Society of Chicago and affiliated with the national chapter. He was known always as a willing mentor to many of the young professionals in the field; and

WHEREAS, Paul Westley Davis leaves behind to mourn his loss and celebrate his memory his mother, his brothers Michael and Glenn; his sister Cheryl Lynn; his nephews Glenn II, Mike, Jr. Marcus and Brian; his nieces Whitney and Tiffany as well as a host of aunts, uncles and other relations along with many good and close friends; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert W. Fioretti, Alderman of the 2nd Ward, has informed this august body of the passing of this outstanding civic leader; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council gathered together this 6th Day of June, 2012 AD, do hereby express our sincere sorrow at the passing of Paul Westley Davis and extend our deepest condolences to his family and the many persons whose lives he touched.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and given to the family of Paul Westley Davis.



ROBERT W. FIORETTI
Alderman – 2nd Ward