



City of Chicago



R2020-106

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 2/19/2020
Sponsor(s): Mitts (37)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Reverend John H. Crawford, Jr.
Committee(s) Assignment:

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
REVEREND JOHN H. CRAWFORD, JR.**

WHEREAS, Reverend John H. Crawford, Jr., husband, brother, father, and community activist, entered into eternity on February 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of Reverend Crawford's passing by the Honorable Emma Mitts, Alderman of the 37th Ward; and

WHEREAS, John was born to the union of John Henry and Essie Crawford in Round Pond, Arkansas on July 8, 1939, and was the oldest of fourteen brothers and sisters; and

WHEREAS, The Crawfords eventually left Arkansas and moved to Chicago's South Side, where John graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, and later joined the U.S. Army, became a medic, and received honors for his service; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, John married Beulah White; the couple had five children, Johnathan, Zina, Yvonne, Malcolm, and Cheryle; John also had two sons, LeJon and Vernon; and

WHEREAS, "Big John," as he was known in the early 1960s, was one of the founding members of the West Side Organization (WSO), an organization that assisted African-Americans with employment, welfare, and schooling, and published a community newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Through John's work with WSO, he organized many meaningful marches, meetings, and events, which led him to being asked to protect Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. whenever he visited Chicago; John also walked with Dr. King in the Marquette Park open-housing march; and

WHEREAS, John accepted the Lord at an early age, and became licensed to minister in the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Reverend Crawford had a dream that woke him from his sleep and inspired him to start For Action In Togetherness Holdfast Incorporated (F.A.I.T.H., INC.), an organization dedicated to helping individuals re-integrate into society after incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Crawford met the love of his life, Patty Stewart, in 1993, and married her two years later; "Sweet P" and "Sweet J", as they affectionately called each other, had five beautiful children, and have been blessed with 25 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren with one on the way, one great-great-grandson, and two Godsons; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Crawford is preceded in death by six brothers, one sister, and one son; he leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Patty; two brothers, Arnold (Beatrice) and Kenneth Crawford (Vinnie); Dorothy, Erna (Henry), Cheryle (Jesse), and Joan (Johnnie); brother-in-law, Thomas Stewart; sister-in-law, Irma (Grant); his many special nieces, nephews, and cousins, and a host of friends and loved ones; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this nineteenth day of February, 2020, do hereby extend our most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Reverend John H. Crawford; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family Reverend John H. Crawford as a sign of our honor and respect.

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EMMA MITTS
Alderman, 37th Ward