



City of Chicago



R2023-773

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 5/24/2023
Sponsor(s): Lawson (44)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Elizabeth Murphy
Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Elizabeth 'Beth' Murphy, age 68, passed after a long battle with cancer on April 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this sad occasion by Alderman Bennett Lawson of the 44th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Murphy was born in 1955 and grew up in the Albany Park neighborhood and remained a lifelong Chicagoan; and

WHEREAS, She grew up a Cubs fan on the North Side. Beth would keep score during games and caught fly balls at Wrigley; and,

WHEREAS, After graduating from Northwestern University with a degree in journalism, she moved into an apartment across the street from Wrigley Field. She worked as a buyer for Marshall Field's, focusing on modern dresses and gourmet foods, before taking a job running Long Grove Confectionery's ten stores; and

WHEREAS, Beth married Jim Murphy, a former Chicago police officer who bought Ray's Bleachers at Sheffield and Waveland in 1980 and renamed it Murphy's Bleachers, she eventually became his right hand as the two worked to improve the bar and the neighborhood around Wrigley Field, adding rooftop seating to the business; and

WHEREAS, In 2002 Jim and Beth purchased a 1920's-era funeral home at 3905 Lincoln Avenue with the intent of converting it into a restaurant specializing in Irish food more sophisticated than pub grub; and

WHEREAS, Murphy sadly lost her husband Jim in to cancer 2003 and took over as the owner and manager of the businesses; and

WHEREAS, After Jim's untimely death in 2003, Beth, James and Brian Murphy continued his dream, importing a massive hand-crafted teak bar from County Wexford and a smaller bar from Northern Ireland and opened Mrs. Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Beth Murphy became the head of the Wrigley Rooftop Association, the lead negotiator and spokesperson for the association when dealing with the Cubs and City Hall but she also advocated for business owners and residents alike when it came to renovating the ballpark, introducing concerts and expanding the number of night games at the Friendly Confines; and

WHEREAS, Murphy regularly opened her businesses to school, community, theatre, storytelling and non-profit organizations; sponsoring events and fundraisers to help sustain and grow these groups, especially East Lake View Neighbors, Greeley School and others; and

WHEREAS, Beth was a patron of the theater and helped foster numerous local theatre companies including Route 66 Theatre, A Red Orchid Theatre and Irish Theatre of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Beth was beloved by the many players and celebrity Cubs fans who found a home at Murphy's Bleachers including Eddie Vedder, Bill Murray, Bonnie Hunt, Mark Grace, David Ross, Rick Sutcliffe and others; and

WHEREAS, She is survived by stepsons James (Jeanette) and Brian (Jaime) Murphy; grandchildren Miles, Molly, Max and Maeve; siblings Frank (Janet) Newell, Susan (John) O'Connell and David (Christine) Newell; and many treasured nieces, nephews and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Beth Murphy was a pioneering businesswoman, an icon of the Wrigleyville experience, a model business owner, dedicated neighbor and beloved friend to many; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 24th day of May, 2023, do hereby honor the life of Elizabeth Murphy and extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends and colleagues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Beth Murphy as a symbol of our esteem and sympathy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Lawson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bennett R. Lawson
Alderman, 44th Ward