



# Office of the Chicago City Clerk



R2012-569

Office of the City Clerk

## City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:**

6/6/2012

**Sponsor(s):**

Cardenas, George A. (12)  
Pope, John (10)  
Balcer, James (11)  
Quinn, Marty (13)  
Lane, Lona (18)  
Munoz, Ricardo (22)  
Zalewski, Michael R. (23)  
Reboyas, Ariel (30)  
Suarez, Regner Ray (31)  
Mell, Richard F. (33)  
Austin, Carrie M. (34)  
Cullerton, Timothy M. (38)  
Laurino, Margaret (39)  
Moreno, Proco Joe (1)  
O'Connor, Mary (41)  
Reilly, Brendan (42)  
Smith, Michele (43)  
Arena, John (45)  
Cappleman, James (46)  
Pawar, Ameya (47)

**Type:**

Resolution

**Title:**

Expression of support for Mayor's office of new americans

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** The United States was founded by immigrants from around the world, seeking freedom and a better life, and throughout our Nation's history, immigrants have served with great honor and distinction in the United States Armed Forces, with many of them making the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country; and

**WHEREAS,** The vitality of the City of Chicago, one of the most ethnically, racially and religiously diverse cities in the world where one-out-of-five of the City's residents is an immigrant, has been built on the strength of its immigrant communities, with immigrants thirty percent more likely than native-born residents to start small businesses; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of Illinois is home to more than 550,000 legal permanent immigrants, including 500,000 immigrant residents of the City, and currently 350,000 of the State's permanent immigrants are eligible to apply for United States citizenship; and

**WHEREAS,** Becoming a naturalized United States citizen is the ultimate expression of commitment to our Nation and is a path to full participation, conferring all the rights, benefits and responsibilities of citizenship, and those immigrants who have taken steps to become citizens are more likely to speak English and earn more than non-citizen immigrants; and

**WHEREAS,** At the naturalization ceremony, newly naturalized citizens take an oath to renounce all allegiance to any foreign country and to support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and to "bear true faith and allegiance to the same"; and

**WHEREAS,** Becoming a naturalized United States citizen is a lengthy process, including undergoing a full background check and passing a written and verbal examination on the Nation's history and government; and

**WHEREAS,** The Illinois New Americans Initiative, a non-profit partnership between the State of Illinois, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and thirty-one other community organizations, was established to assist immigrants to become citizens and aid them through the naturalization process; and

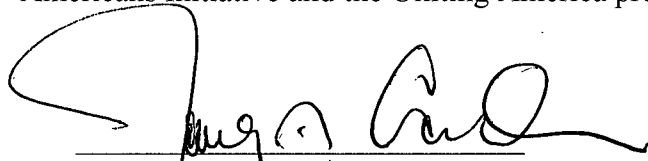
**WHEREAS,** The Uniting America program, a partnership between the State of Illinois, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, numerous faith-based organizations, and business and labor leaders, encourages native-born citizens to volunteer in immigrant communities to assist them with the naturalization process and to exchange cultures between the communities; and


**WHEREAS,** In an effort to make Chicago a national leader in serving immigrant families and the most immigrant-friendly city in the world, Mayor Rahm Emanuel created the Office of New Americans to serve immigrant families and encourage economic development and entrepreneurship in immigrant communities. In carrying out its mission, the Office of New Americans works with the federal government, other governmental agencies, community organizations, and labor and business leaders to promote citizenship and assist with the naturalization process; and

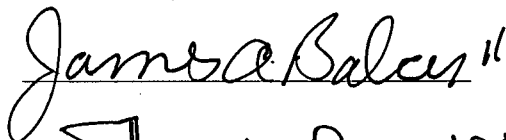
**WHEREAS**, Mayor Emanuel and the City Council are deeply committed to making Chicago a city that welcomes immigrants and assists them in becoming United States citizens; now, therefore;

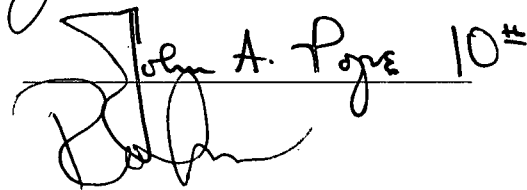
**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this sixth day of June, 2012, do hereby support the efforts of the Mayor's Office of New Americans, the New Americans Initiative and the Uniting America program in their goals to promote citizenship and assist immigrants with the naturalization process, and to promote these goals through volunteer outreach; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That copies of this resolution be sent to the New Americans Initiative and the Uniting America program as a sign of our support.

  
George A. Cardenas  
Alderman, 12<sup>th</sup> Ward

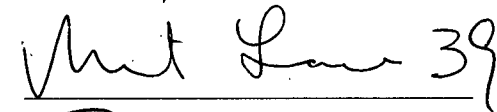
  
Co Sponsor 30th

  
James A. Balcer 11

  
John A. Pope 10<sup>th</sup>

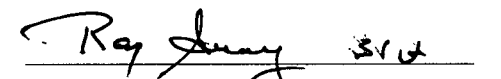
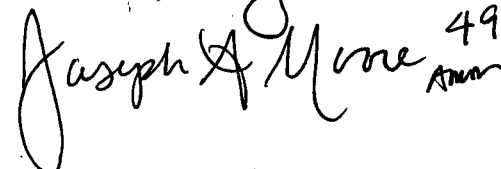
  
Pat McIsaac 22

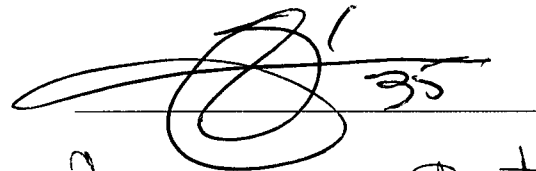
  
Timothy McQuinn 38

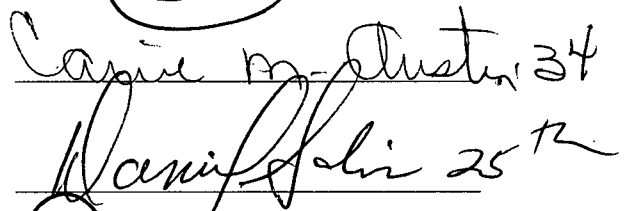
  
Matt Lane 39

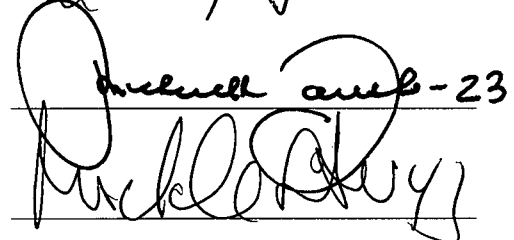
  
Rick 42

  
Mary E. O'Connor 41

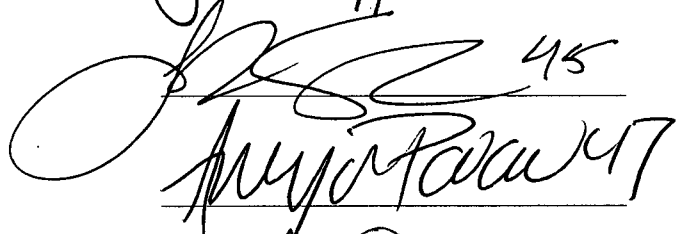
  
Ray Lewis 51st  
  
Joseph A. More 49

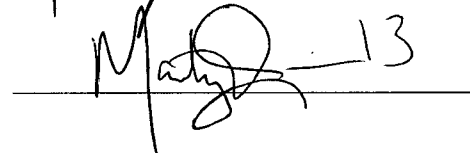
  
Carrie M. Austin 34

  
Danif Fahir 25<sup>th</sup>

  
Michael 23

  
James Appleman 46

  
Mayor Rahm Emanuel 45

  
Mary 13