



Office of the Chicago City  
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R2012-608

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	6/6/2012
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Zalewski, Michael R. (23)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Congratulations extended to Richard Zilka
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

### SALUTE TO RICHARD ZILKA

WHEREAS, Richard Zilka, an outstanding community activist and well-regarded member of his community, is retiring as president of the Clearing Civic League after leading this venerable organization for the past 27 years; and

WHEREAS, Richard Zilka married his wife, Marie in 1957 and, a year later, purchased their house in the Clearing neighborhood where they still live. The Zilkas have been blessed with two sons, one daughter, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Richard Zilka joined the Clearing Civic League in 1967, became a trustee in 1980 and its president in 1985. He was instrumental in bringing a new library branch to Clearing that replaced a storefront branch on 63rd Street; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, Richard Zilka started what became a crusade against hazardous waste pollution in the vicinity. He fought against a proposed hazardous waste incinerator in the nearby suburb of Bedford Park until the company withdrew their plans. When a waste incinerator was proposed for another nearby suburb, he led the fight against it until those plans were dropped. After many meetings, General Electric agreed to stop PCB processing at their southwest side plant within a year rather than the 3 to 4 years they had originally requested; and

WHEREAS, In so many ways Richard Zilka made life better and safer for his Clearing neighbors. He pushed the Fire Department to purchase and station new paramedic ambulance at neighborhood fire station. He lobbied to increase fines on from \$10 to \$200-\$500 on railroad companies for blocking a local grade crossings. He got the phone company to stop charging toll calls for Clearing residents to phone City Hall, the 8th District Police, and the local Park District. He attended the meetings of the Midway Noise Commission and made sure that the local parochial and public schools received sound insulation funding; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Michael R. Zalewski, Alderman of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward, has apprised this august body of the significant contribution that has been made by Richard Zilka who often acted as liaison between his office and the community residents; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council gathered together this 6<sup>th</sup> Day of June, 2012 AD, do hereby salute Richard Zilka for his tenacious and enduring efforts to better his community and extend our very best wishes for his health, happiness and great success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and given to Richard Zilka.

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MICHAEL R. ZALEWSKI  
Alderman – 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward

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