



Office of the City Clerk



R2013-13

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	1/17/2013
Sponsor(s):	Emanuel, Rahm (Mayor)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to John Baird.
Committee(s) Assignment:	

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Members of this Chamber wish to pay tribute to John Baird, who recently retired from the Commission on Chicago Landmarks after serving that body tirelessly and honorably for nearly 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird graduated with distinction from Wesleyan University in 1938 with a degree in History, then earned a Masters of Business Administration degree from Harvard University in 1940. He then joined his family's venerable real estate company, Baird & Warner, where he served as a member of the Board of Directors from 1943 through 1984, as Vice President from 1954 through 1963, as President from 1963 through 1991, and as Chairman of the Board from 1984 through the present day. At the company, Mr. Baird has been a crusader for development projects in blighted neighborhoods and the revitalization of the City's Loop and Printing House Row districts; and

WHEREAS, A relentlessly forward-thinking and public-spirited man, Mr. Baird has made significant, wide-ranging contributions to the City. Between 1959 and 1963, he presided over the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Housing and Planning Council, helping advance the cause of civil rights by urging passage of an open-occupancy ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird has served myriad organizations as a director or trustee, including Carson Pirie Scott, Harris Bank, the Chicago Conference on Religion and Race, Chicago Title & Trust, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Wesleyan University, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Trust for Public Land, where he played a leading part in that group's emergence as a strong voice opposing urban sprawl and favoring the use of historic preservation to revive, reuse, and rehabilitate not just individual buildings, but entire neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird also summoned the time and energy to become the longest-serving member of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks. In his various capacities with the Commission, including Vice-Chair and Secretary, he contributed the invaluable perspective of a senior real estate professional, combined with the zeal of an historical preservationist. During Mr. Baird's tenure, the Commission conveyed landmark status to well over 5,500 buildings. In 2003, he received the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions' Individual Preservation Service Award; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this seventeenth day of January, 2013, do hereby offer our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Mr. John Baird for his commitment and service to our City, and bestow upon him the honorary title of Commissioner Emeritus of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. John Baird as a token of our appreciation and good wishes.

CONS.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

January 17, 2013

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a congratulatory resolution concerning John Baird.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,


Mayor