



Office of the Chicago City  
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R2011-1035

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 9/8/2011  
**Sponsor(s):** Fioretti, Bob (2)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Tribute to Late Wilma Ward  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

A TRIBUTE TO WILMA WARD

WHEREAS, In His Infinite Wisdom, Almighty God granted Wilma Ward, an activist and a leading member of her West Haven community, eternal rest and peace on August 20, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Wilma Ward was born in Chicago and her early years were spent in Kirkwood, Missouri. As the daughter of political activists during the Civil Rights era, she joined the Freedom Riders movement and traveled by bus into Mississippi to register Black voters. She also participated in non-violent "sit-in" protests; and

WHEREAS, Wilma Ward also challenged the segregation of public schools in Missouri. After graduation from High School in 1964, she studied art at Washington University Art School and then at the Art Institute of Chicago. She was a gifted artist but this interest was soon replaced by her commitment to improving the quality of life for residents of Chicago's West Side; and

WHEREAS, She began her advocacy of the underdog as a property manager at St. Stephens Terrace Apartments, a 261-unit housing complex opened in 1979 by her church, St. Stephens A.M.E. This began her long public and civic service on the West Side; and

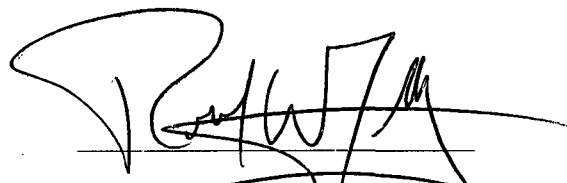
WHEREAS, Wilma Ward managed more than 400 units of Section 8 housing as the Cook County, court-appointed receiver to correct code violations and dangerous hazardous conditions citywide. Later she worked with the Interfaith Organizing Project, where she first administered the Home Repairs for Accessible and Independent Living for seniors program; and

WHEREAS, Wilma Ward and her colleagues worked to ensure that homeowners who lived in the path of the United Center project would have replacement homes that met their needs. This effort gave her much personal pride and gave her lifelong friends here and nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert W. Fioretti, Alderman of the 2nd Ward, has informed this august body of the passing of this successful and community-minded woman who was known for her inner personal strength and her determined endurance; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, assembled this 8th Day of September, 2011 AD, do hereby express our sincere sorrow at the passing of Wilma Ward and extend our deepest condolences to his family and all those whose lives she touched.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Wilma Ward.

  
Robert W. Fioretti  
Alderman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward