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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	5/9/2012
Sponsor(s):	Harris, Michelle A. (8)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Dr. Sandra F. Lewis
Committee(s) Assignment:	

SALUTE TO DR. SANDRA F. LEWIS

WHEREAS, Dr. Sandra F. Lewis celebrates her retirement from the Harold Washington School after 36 years of hard work and dedication; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Dr. Sandra F. Lewis began working at Harold Washington School as a teacher. She progressed to the positions of Assistant Principal/Counselor and, by 1989, she was the principal. It is her philosophy that all students can learn as long as they are provided with instructional programs that meet their needs. Additionally, she believes that one's education begins with the development of pride and self-worth; and

WHEREAS, The Harold Washington School serves 750 African American students from pre-school through eighth grade. The school was named after the late Chicago Mayor who provides students an exemplary African American role model. The school includes a bi-level museum that contains various artifacts belonging to the late Mayor, including his 1983 Cadillac and pictures of his life; and

WHEREAS, Principal Lewis has developed many programs including the Social Development Model. This program offers mentoring for all students. Due to the principal's active recruitment, the staff is composed of 40 percent males. Aside from the staff's ordinary routines they serve as models encouraging the young people to be the best that they can be through their direction and development of after school activities as well as summer programs; and

WHEREAS, Principal Lewis maintains an Afro-Centric curriculum, based on the history of African Americans through the use of artifacts and pictures. Students have had the opportunity to be visited through the years by nationally known African American celebrities such as the Dr. Margaret Burroughs, Gwendolyn Brooks, Cyrillo Mesween, and Ella Jenkins. Kindergarten students have been able to perform on an album along with Ella Jenkins that has been placed in the Smithsonian Institute; and

WHEREAS, Principal Lewis has transformed the third floor of the school into "College Town". Each room represents one of the African American Colleges that are affiliated with the United Negro College Fund. Students learn the importance of attending college as early as pre-school. They have worked with political and corporate leaders to bring services to their community that will enrich their lives and that of their families; and

WHEREAS, Principal Lewis founded an Early Intervention System in 1990 that helps students with their individual learning problems. Beginning in pre-school and holding small classes of 15 students or less they are guided through a customized instructional program. In 1989, the number of students reading at or above grade level was only 11 percent and increased up to 65 percent by 1995; and

WHEREAS, During the last five years, more than one million dollars have been spent on a networked system of computers to provide students with access to the internet, a multi-media system, and other applications in order to create a School of Technology thus preparing all of their students to meet the technological challenges that 21st century brings. As of today, each classroom has five computers. Their goal is to have at least eight computers per classroom as well as being able to provide students with computers "on loan" to take home for those who aren't able to afford one; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Harold Washington School was selected to serve as one of six schools to serve as a Model of Technology, one of two schools for its "Exemplary Student Center Environment", selected by Design for Change as a "Stand Out School" for improved Reading and Math Test Scores from 1990 to 1996; and

WHEREAS, Principal Lewis was an adjunct professor at Roosevelt University in 1996 plus a probation manager from 1997 through 1999 as well as a launch mentor in 1998 and 1999. Furthermore, she has been a member of the Chicago Alliance of Black School Educators, Whitman Academy, Chicago Principal's Association, and a board member for Teachers for Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Principal Sandra F. Lewis has garnered numerous awards including the Chicago Alliance of Black School Educators Award for Dedicated Service in 1990, the Community Linkage Award in 1990, the Whitman Award for Outstanding Leadership in 1991, the Harold Washington Parent Award for Leadership in 1991, 1995, and 1996, the Kizzy Award in 1998, and the Educator of the Year in 2000. Aside from the accolades, she has been featured on television including the Channel Five program, "A Different Kind of Teacher", the Channel 9 news segment, "Unsung Heroes", and Channel 21's "Exemplary School Programs". She has also been featured in newspapers such as the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times, Educator, and Time Magazine; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Michelle Harris, Alderman of the 8th Ward, has informed this august body of Dr. Sandra F. Lewis' retirement, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 9th Day of May, 2012 AD, do hereby salute the praiseworthy dedication of Dr. Sandra F. Lewis for more than three decades and express our very best wishes to her for continued success in any and all future endeavors she may wish to undertake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Dr. Sandra F. Lewis.


MICHELLE HARRIS
Alderman – 8th Ward