



City of Chicago



R2015-344

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	5/6/2015
Sponsor(s):	Emanuel (Mayor)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Alderman James A. Balcer for dedicated service to residents of 11th Ward
Committee(s) Assignment:	



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

May 6, 2015

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a congratulatory resolution regarding our departing colleague
Alderman James A. Balcer.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor

A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on MAY 6, 2015

Whereas, The Members of this Chamber are proud to congratulate our friend and colleague, Alderman James Balcer, on his eighteen years of exemplary and dedicated service to the people of the 11th Ward and the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in the Bridgeport neighborhood on Chicago's Southwest Side, Alderman Balcer committed himself to public service at an early age. He served our Country with distinction as a member of the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. A decorated war hero, Alderman Balcer is the proud recipient of three Purple Hearts for wounds he sustained in action against an enemy of the United States and of the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Balcer began his long career in governmental service as Director of Veterans Affairs for the City of Chicago, a position he held from 1989 to 1997; and

WHEREAS, Appointed to the Chicago City Council in 1997 to fill a vacant aldermanic seat, Alderman Balcer was first elected as Alderman of the 11th Ward in 1999. He was then re-elected by his constituents to three additional consecutive terms in office; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career as Alderman of the 11th Ward, Alderman Balcer was a fervent advocate for our Nation's veterans. He worked tirelessly not only to honor the lives of those men and women who died in the line of duty, but to ensure that returning veterans and their families receive the care and support that they need and deserve. The many causes he championed on their behalf include increasing veterans' healthcare benefits

and access to medical treatment; making it easier for veterans to obtain jobs when they return home, especially in the fields of police and fire protection; and spreading awareness about post-traumatic stress disorder and the tragically high rates of suicide among the veteran population. Thanks to Alderman Balcer's persistence, dedication and leadership, the lives of Chicago's veterans have markedly improved; and

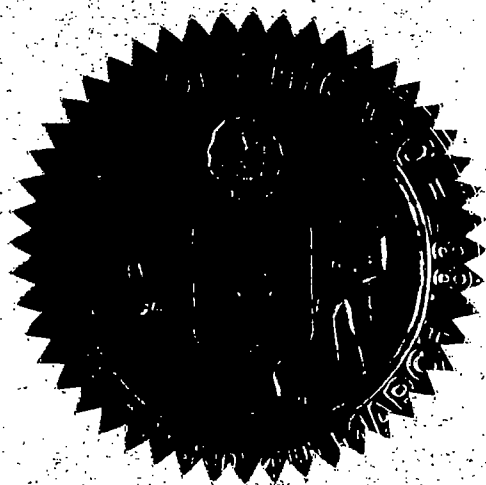
WHEREAS, Alderman Balcer's unwavering devotion to our Nation's veterans and his willingness to use his public office to draw attention to their plight has served as an inspiring reminder to all Chicagoans of our collective duty, as citizens of this great Nation, to honor our veterans for the sacrifices they have made in defense of our freedoms, and to ensure that they and their families are properly cared for and never forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Balcer also worked diligently to improve the quality of life in the 11th Ward. He spearheaded efforts to foster the growth of local businesses there and to increase the level of city services in the community. His many notable legislative achievements include cosponsoring the 2014 ordinance ratifying the City's current collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, as well as an ambitious ordinance that greatly strengthened the City of Chicago's Building Code; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Balcer has served with distinction on many Chicago City Council committees, including, most recently, as the Chair of the Committee on Public Safety, and as a member of the Committees on Aviation; Budget and Operations; Committees, Rules and Ethics; Finance; Health and Environmental Protection; Housing and Real Estate; and Pedestrian and Traffic Safety; 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 May, 2015, do hereby extend to Alderman James Balcer our deepest gratitude and thanks for his many years of exceptional service to the people of Chicago, and our best wishes for continued success in all of his future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Alderman James Balcer as a token of our appreciation and esteem.



Rafael Emanuel

MAYOR

Summa A. Mendoza

CITY CLERK