



City of Chicago



R2016-336

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 5/18/2016

Sponsor(s): Emanuel (Mayor)
Burke (14)
Laurino (39)

Type: Resolution

Title: Congratulations extended to Thomas H. Powers, P.E., on retirement as Commissioner of Department of Water Management

Committee(s) Assignment:

A resolution

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



Presented by *Mayor Rahm Emanuel,*
Alderman Edward M. Burke
& Alderman Margaret Laurino on May 18, 2016

Whereas, Thomas H. Powers, P.E. officially retired from the City of Chicago as the Commissioner of the Department of Water Management on May 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed this event by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Aldermen Edward M. Burke and Margaret Laurino; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Powers, P.E. began his career with the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) in 1996 as a Resident Engineer; and

WHEREAS, In 2005 Thomas H. Powers, P.E. was promoted to First Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer for CDOT where he was responsible for overseeing bridge reconstruction, roadway reconstruction, traffic signals and engineering, alley repairs and bridge emergency repairs; and

WHEREAS, In 2009 Thomas H. Powers, P.E. was named Acting Commissioner of Transportation and assumed responsibility for the overall management of operations, planning, and productivity; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Powers, P.E. while at CDOT took a personal role in projects to rehabilitate, repair and rebuild bridges including the North Avenue Bridge, Taylor Street Bascule Bridge, Wabash Avenue Bascule Bridge, Monroe Street Bridge, Chicago Avenue Bridge, Kinzie Street Bridge, Jackson Boulevard Bascule Bridge, Normal & Eggeston Bridge and Cortland Street Bascule Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Powers, P.E. distinguished himself by saving millions of dollars through reorganization of systems and resources; and

WHEREAS, In 2010 Thomas H. Powers, P.E. was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Water Management and vowed "to leave the department better than I found it"; and

WHEREAS, In his role as commissioner, Thomas H. Powers, P.E. has overseen the purification and delivery of drinking water through 4,300 miles of water main to the City of Chicago and 125 suburban communities as well as the delivery of waste water through 4,400 miles of sewers to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Powers, P.E. was the point-person for the administration as Mayor Rahm Emanuel launched the most ambitious renewal of Chicago's water infrastructure with a 10-year goal of replacing or lining more than 1,000 miles of water main and 750 miles of sewer main, converting from steam power to electric power three pumping stations and installing more than 200,000 water meters; and

WHEREAS, For the past twenty years, Thomas H. Powers, P.E. worked diligently to uphold the finest and most noble traditions of public service; and

WHEREAS, The vision, hard work and dedication of Thomas H. Powers, P.E. serve as an example to all; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this eighteenth day of May, 2016, do hereby express our gratitude to Thomas H. Powers, P.E. on his many years of dedicated service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Thomas H. Powers, P.E.



Rahm Emanuel

Mayor

Susanna A. Mendez

City Clerk