



City of Chicago



R2022-276

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 3/23/2022
Sponsor(s): Burke (14)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Josephine Dorothy Minow
Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Josephine "Jo" Dorothy Minow has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of her passing by Alderman Edward M. Burke; and

WHEREAS, Jo is survived by her husband, Newton Baskin, three daughters, Nell, Martha, and Mary, three grandchildren, other family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Jo was born in Chicago to Salem and Bessie Baskin and grew up in the Lakeview neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, She graduated from Nicholas Senn High School and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Northwestern University in 1948; and

WHEREAS, After college, Jo worked for a year as an assistant to the Advertising Director for the Mandel Brothers Department Store, followed by a year teaching at the Francis W. Parker School; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, she married Newton Minow, who went on to serve as Chairman of the Federal Commerce Commission during John F. Kennedy's Administration, followed by a long career at the Sidley Austin Law Firm, where he remains Senior Counsel; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, she joined the Board of Directors of the Juvenile Protective Association, which she later led as President from 1973 to 1975; and

WHEREAS, Jo co-chaired the Juvenile Task Force of the Chicago Community Trust from 1978 until 1980 and was active in the Cook County Justice for Children Initiative and the Chicago Foundation for Education; and

WHEREAS, Jo was a founding member of the Northwestern University's Women's Board in 1978 and sat on many boards, including boards for the University of Chicago and the Field Museum of Natural History; and

WHEREAS, Jo was a longtime trustee of the Ravinia Music Festival, and from 1980 until 1983, she chaired Know Your Chicago, a University of Chicago sponsored group that organizes annual lectures and tours that promote civic awareness and participation; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, Jo published a children's book in verse that she wrote and her son-in-law illustrated, "Marty the Broken Hearted Artichoke"; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Jo and her husband commissioned the 2006 book "Millennium Park: Creating a Chicago Landmark," which was published by the University of Chicago Press; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Jo subsequently wrote two more children's books, "Pineapple Pete's Remarkable Feat," which was illustrated by her son-in-law, and "A Light in Every Window," which was illustrated by her granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, a school in West Pullman bearing Jesse Owens' name was part of a wave of school closures, and with support from Jo and others, another school building nearby was renamed after Owens; and

WHEREAS, In her later years, Jo continued to focus on social justice. At the age of 85, she co-chaired an event at which she was honored for her longtime support of Chicago's Center on Halsted, which is a community center for the LGBT community; and

WHEREAS, Jo was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Caroline Margaret McIlvaine Making History Award from the Chicago History Museum in 2018; and

WHEREAS, To her beloved family, Josephine Minow imparts a legacy of faithfulness, service and dignity; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this twenty-third day of March, 2022, do hereby commemorate Josephine Minow for her grace-filled life and do hereby express our condolences to her family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Josephine Dorothy Minow.



Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward