



# City of Chicago



R2023-680

## Office of the City Clerk Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	5/24/2023
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Mitts (37)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Tribute to late Sandra Johnson
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

## **RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF SANDRA JOHNSON**

**WHEREAS**, Sandra A. Johnson, loving mother, wife, and local columnist, transitioned into eternal rest on March 30, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, The Chicago City Council has been informed of Sandra's passing by the Honorable Emma Mitts, Alderman of the 37th Ward; and

**WHEREAS**, Sandra was born on December 21, 1938 in Chicago – the sixth of seven children born to Gunzie and Doris Nelms; and

**WHEREAS**, Graduating from Christen Fenger High School, Sandra worked as a keypunch operator for the Social Security Administration and later at the Railroad Retirement Board; and

**WHEREAS**, On June 15, 1962, Sandra was united in holy matrimony to Philander Johnson and to their union Lisa, David, and Marc were born; and

**WHEREAS**, After several years as a stay-at-home mom, Sandra returned to school and received her Associate of Arts degree from Malcolm X College and found work in various positions with the Chicago Public Library, including managing the circulation desk at the Chinatown Library, working as a receptionist at the Harold Washington Library, and serving as a tutor in the Adult Literacy and GED Department at Lenger Library before she retired from the Chicago Public Library in 1999; and

**WHEREAS**, During her retirement, Sandra continued to serve the community by tutoring both students and adults in reading skills and pursued writing as a vocation, publishing in the *Neighborhood News* Austin community newsletter and in the *Seniors on the Move* newsletter; her essays appeared in *Ebony Magazine* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and she became a regular columnist for the *Austin Weekly News*; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition to writing, Sandra loved swimming, listening to jazz, and taking care of her family, whom she cherished with all her heart; Sandra especially loved hosting unique parties at her home, which have been fondly remembered for decades afterwards; and

**WHEREAS**, An active member of her community, Sandra was a member of the Eastern Star, West Side chapter of the Chicago League of Women Voters and of the Chicago YWCA West Side Advisory Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Sandra was preceded in death by her siblings, Clarence, William, Gunzie Jr., Hilliard, Geraldine Lucas, and Shirley Williams; and her daughter, Stephanie; she is survived by her children, nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends; and

**WHEREAS**, Sandra will be remembered for her kindness, compassion, understanding and an open ear for everyone, and will be sorely missed by all who knew her; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this twenty-fourth day of May, 2023, do hereby honor the life and legacy of Sandra A. Johnson; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Sandra A. Johnson as a sign of our honor and respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emma Mitts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

EMMA MITTS  
Alderman, 37th Ward