



City of Chicago



R2023-782

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	5/31/2023
Sponsor(s):	Reilly (42)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Designation of June 12, 2023 as "Captain Bob Agra, Jr. Day" in Chicago
Committee(s) Assignment:	

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MONDAY, JUNE 12, AS
CAPTAIN BOB AGRA, JR., DAY IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

WHEREAS, Captain Bob Agra, Jr., is the son and grandson of maritime entrepreneurs and deeply rooted in the family's maritime legacy as the owners of Mercury Sightseeing Boats in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Bob's education in the family business began at a young age, as he grew up riding the boats and spending time at the dock with his father and grandparents; and

WHEREAS, On June 12, 1973, at the age of 15, Bob began his official employment in the family business; and

WHEREAS, Three years later, in 1976, Bob's father passed away unexpectedly, and Bob, at the young age of 18, assumed the burdens and responsibilities of owning and operating Mercury Sightseeing Boats; and

WHEREAS, Bob quickly adapted to the responsibilities of running the company, managing all aspects of the business, including maintenance, licensing, financial accounting, training and security programs, while earning his captain's license at the same time; and

WHEREAS, Bob has overseen the growth and expansion of his family-owned and operated business, including the establishment of Mercury's sister company, Chicago's First Lady Cruises; and

WHEREAS, Under Bob's leadership, the fleet grew from three small passenger vessels to a total of nine vessels, providing Chicago's residents and visitors cruises that are both scenic and educational, offering breathtaking views of Chicago's stunning skyline and insightful knowledge of the city's historic architecture, and

WHEREAS, Bob has transferred his love of piloting boats to numerous captains throughout his career and oversaw the design and construction of four of the company's signature vessels, which have garnered praise for the architectural merit, and

WHEREAS, Throughout his remarkable 50-year career on Chicago's waterfront, Bob was the driving force behind the growth and expansion of the family-owned and operated business, leaving an indelible mark on Chicago's tourism industry, and

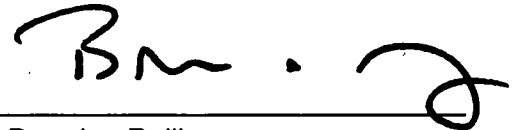
WHEREAS, Bob, as the company's Chief Financial Officer, guides the business through challenges, such as global pandemics, fluctuating weather conditions and evolving regulations, while always prioritizing passenger safety and comfort, and

WHEREAS, Under Bob's leadership, Chicago's First Lady, the official cruise line of the Chicago Architecture Center for 30 years, was named the "Best Boat Tour in North America" by USA Today in 2021, and

WHEREAS, Captain Bob is excited to witness the direction of the business, now led by his two sons, Bob Agra III and Captain Tim Agra Esq., representing the fourth generation of the family-owned and operated enterprise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago do hereby proclaim Monday, June 12, 2023 as Captain Bob Agra, Jr., Day in the City of Chicago in recognition of Captain Bob's 50 years of unparalleled service and contributions to Chicago's maritime and tourism industries, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Captain Bob Agra, Jr., and his loving family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bm. J", written over a horizontal line.

Brendan Reilly
Alderman, 42nd Ward

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