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R2011-1333

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 11/9/2011
Sponsor(s): Jackson, Sandi (7)
Type: Resolution
Title: Commemoration of 50th anniversary of Rainbow Beach
Wade-Ins
Committee(s) Assignment:

SALUTE TO THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAINBOW BEACH WADE-INS

WHEREAS, On Aug. 28, 1960, Velma Murphy Hill led 30 members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Youth Council to Rainbow Beach with the intention of desegregating what had been previously held as a segregated white enclave by wading in the water there; and

WHEREAS, An hour after their arrival, a mob surrounded them and began hurling rocks, one of which struck the 21 year old girl in the head. Norman Hill, now her husband, and her brother carried her to safety but her wound required 17 stitches; and

WHEREAS, The Wade-Ins, as these non-violent direct actions were named, continued through the summer of 1961 and the beaches were eventually integrated; and

WHEREAS, Velma Murphy Hill, now 71, and 10 others who participated in those historic Rainbow Beach Wade-Ins were joined by United States Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr., Illinois State Senator Kwame Raoul and almost 200 others on Saturday, August 20, 2011 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of these Rainbow Beach Wade-Ins and the unveiling of a memorial marker denoting the historic significance of the site; and

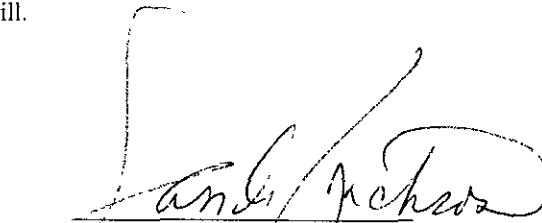
WHEREAS, The commemorative gathering was hosted by Norman and Velma Hill, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the NAACP, the Chicago Federation of Labor, and a host of other stakeholders in the campaign for justice and decency in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Sandi Jackson, Alderman of the 7th Ward, has apprised this august body of this half-century milestone of a significant event in the continuing struggle to eradicate racial bias in this city, this nation and the world; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 8th Day of September, 2011 AD, do hereby express our profound admiration for the courage shown by those pioneers of racial equality and salute them as they commemorate this historic occasion.

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Norman and Velma Murphy Hill.~~

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SANDI JACKSON
Alderman - 7th Ward