



Office of the City Clerk



R2013-355

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 4/10/2013

Sponsor(s): Moore, Joseph (49)
Tunney, Thomas (44)
Cappleman, James (46)
Moreno, Proco Joe (1)
Fioretti, Bob (2)
Dowell, Pat (3)
Burns, William D. (4)
Hairston, Leslie A. (5)
Sawyer, Roderick T. (6)
Holmes, Natasha (7)
Harris, Michelle A. (8)
Lane, Lona (18)
Munoz, Ricardo (22)
Waguespack, Scott (32)
Mell, Richard F. (33)
Colón, Rey (35)
Reilly, Brendan (42)
Smith, Michele (43)
Arena, John (45)
Pawar, Ameya (47)
Osterman, Harry (48)

Type: Resolution

Title: Call for commissioners of men's sports to publicly support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender athletes

Committee(s) Assignment: Committee on Human Relations

Resolution Urging the Commissioners of Men's Sports to Publicly Support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Athletes

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has been the proud home to seven professional sports teams that have electrified and united our city: Cubs, White Sox, Bears, Sky, Bulls, Blackhawks, and Fire; and,

WHEREAS, Chicagoans of all genders, races, and classes, celebrate our teams' accomplishments as shared victories, yet gay professional athletes feel the need to remain closeted; and,

WHEREAS, unlike most other professions today, participants in professional sports believe they cannot be open about their sexual orientation; no active male player in any of the five major professional sports leagues in the United States has ever publicly acknowledged being gay; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. military, once one of the last bastions of discrimination against LGBT individuals, now recognizes the need to address prejudice openly, instead of assuming it does not exist; and,

WHEREAS, the Chicago Cubs and Chicago Blackhawks, recognizing the importance of inclusion, began participating in the annual Chicago LGBT Pride Parade in June 2010; and,

WHEREAS, the Chicago Cubs recorded a video featuring coaches and players—Manager Mike Quade, first base Coach Bob Dernier, pitcher Ryan Dempster, outfielder Marlon Byrd and second baseman Darwin Barney—for the “It Gets Better Project,” becoming the second Major League Baseball team to participate in the online campaign aimed at curbing suicides among LGBT youth; and,

WHEREAS, Robbie Rogers, a former professional soccer player for the Chicago Fire, who came out as gay at the same time he announced his retirement would be welcomed back to the Fire as evidenced by Fire Coach Frank Klopas' statement: “Should Robbie want to return to the game, we would still be open to him being part of the Fire”; and,

WHEREAS, Bias-based harassment is far too often complicit in the disturbing number of LGBT youth taking their own lives; and,

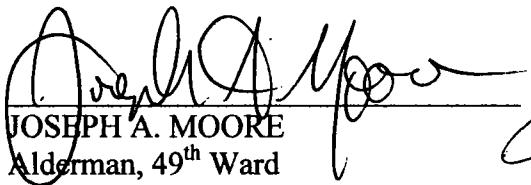
WHEREAS, Our LGBT youth need LGBT sports heroes, in addition to other influential role models; and,

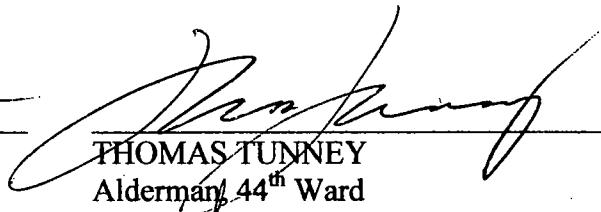
WHEREAS, With this in mind, the Last Closet Project campaign leadership, under the auspices of the nonprofit organization Woman Vision, is seeking interviews with all the major league sports Commissioners for the purpose of filming a statement of affirmation for LGBT athletes; now, therefore,

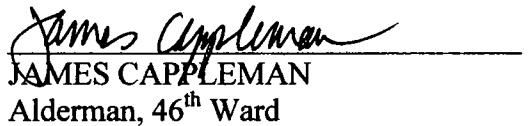
BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor, and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago respectfully request that the Commissioners of Baseball, Football, Basketball, Hockey, and Soccer use the authority of their office to sanction players who have engaged in specific incidents of slurs and intolerance toward LGBT athletes; and,

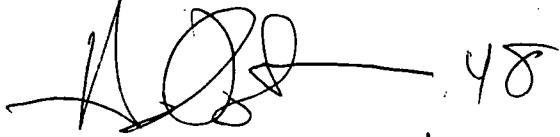
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioners state in a public interview their support for LGBT players and invite them to come out and, once they are out, pledge to make them safe and accepted; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, Football Commissioner Roger Goodell, Basketball Commissioner David Stern, Hockey Commissioner Gary Bettman, and Soccer Commissioner Don Garber.

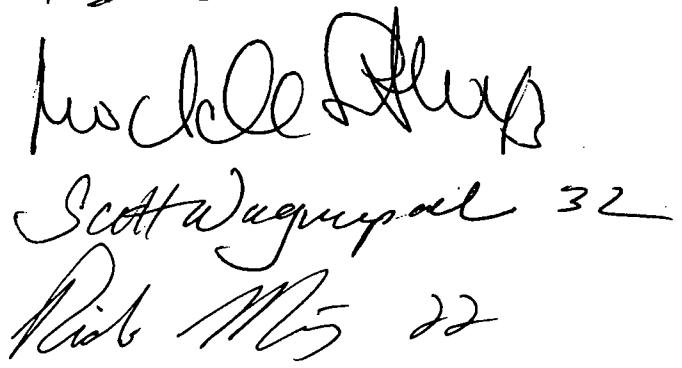

JOSEPH A. MOORE
Alderman, 49th Ward


THOMAS TUNNEY
Alderman, 44th Ward

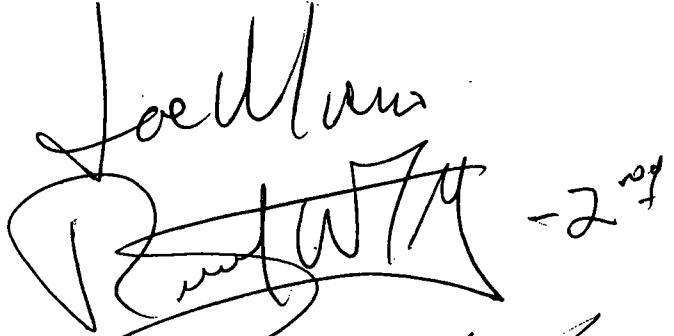

JAMES CAPPLEMAN
Alderman, 46th Ward

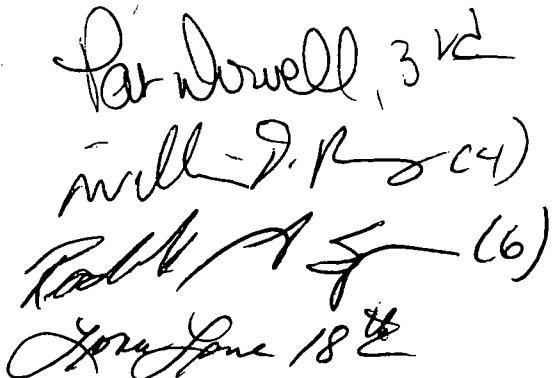
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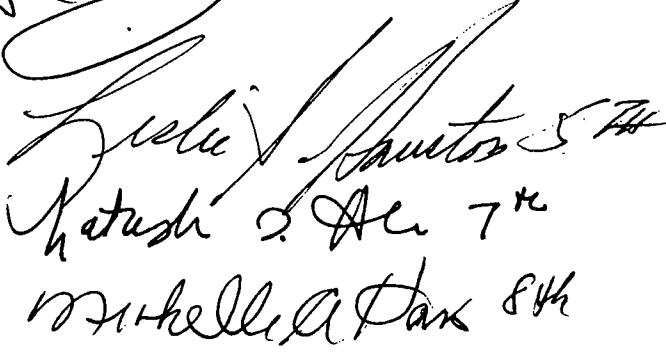
 49
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 45

 -2nd

 3rd
D. R. (4)
(6)
June 18th

 5th
7th
8th