



# City of Chicago



R2015-9

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:**

1/21/2015

**Sponsor(s):**

Emanuel (Mayor)  
Tunney (44)

**Type:**

Resolution

**Title:**

Gratitude extended to Accion Chicago for leadership in  
microlending and development of Chicago Microlending  
Institute

**Committee(s) Assignment:**



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

January 21, 2015

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Alderman Tunney, a resolution recognizing the City of Chicago's small business initiatives.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor

# A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*  
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by ALDERMAN THOMAS TUNNEY  
MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on JANUARY 21, 2015

**Whereas** In response to the need of small businesses to have access to affordable capital, in December 2011, Mayor Emanuel launched a groundbreaking microlending program, which has become a national model, by creating new microlending companies and investing an initial \$1 million dollars to make targeted loans to small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Chicago partnered with Accion Chicago to develop the Chicago Microlending Institute (CMI) to expand microlending in the City, and to train two new microlenders, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives and Women's Business Development Corporation; and

**WHEREAS**, As of January 15, 2015, these microlending companies have provided more than \$1.6 million in loans to 179 small Chicago businesses, and combined, they have helped create and preserve over 700 jobs in the City's neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, With a total investment of \$2 million and the creation of a revolving loan fund, the City's microlending partners now are able to fund 100 new small business loans annually; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition, CMI laid the foundation for Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives to become a Small Business Administration microlender, earning it an additional \$750,000 in capital in 2015, and

**WHEREAS**, With the support of the City, CMI has improved access to affordable capital to small businesses, particularly in underserved and low-income communities, with 80% of the loan recipients being minority-owned businesses and 56% being women-owned businesses; and

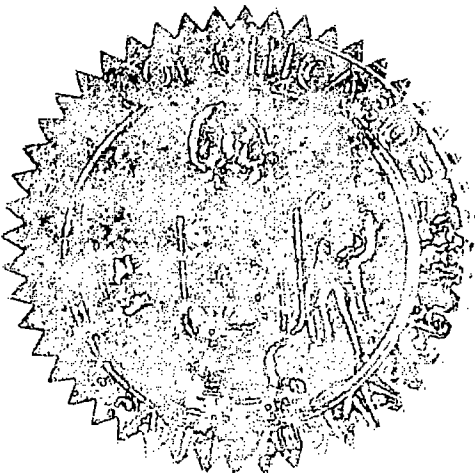
WHEREAS, The microlending program is succeeding as a way for small businesses to make strategic moves, maintain or create new jobs, and explore new avenues of growth. An example of this success is a loan to Chef Tsadaakeeyah Emmanuel of Majani, Inc. to expand his vegetarian catering business by moving into his own space in the South Shore neighborhood, and to preserve two jobs and create one new one; and

WHEREAS, In other noteworthy examples, a series of CMI loans helped Tigist Reda open and expand Demera Ethiopian Restaurant in Uptown, creating nine jobs and retaining seven jobs, and another microloan helped Sarah Gullette Johnson of SGJ Property Management, Inc. modernize and expand her business, doubling her workforce from seven to fourteen; and

WHEREAS, Small businesses are the backbone of the City's economy and the success of the City's microlending program will ensure that these small businesses remain the engines of growth in our neighborhoods; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-first day of January, 2015, do hereby recognize and extend our gratitude to Accion Chicago for its leadership in microlending and for developing the CMI, and extend our gratitude to the Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives and the Women's Business Development Corporation for their partnership with the City of Chicago in making access to affordable capital a reality for hundreds of businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to Accion Chicago, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, and Women's Business Development Corporation as a token of our gratitude and esteem.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rahm Emanuel", written over a horizontal line.

MAYOR

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Summa A. Mendoza", written over a horizontal line.

CITY CLERK