



City of Chicago



R2017-145

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:

2/22/2017

Sponsor(s):

Mitts (37)
Austin (34)
Curtis (18)
Ervin (28)
Moore (17)
Scott, Jr. (24)
Harris (8)
Beale (9)
Hairston (5)
Dowell (3)
Brookins (21)
Cochran (20)
Villegas (36)
Foulkes (16)
Sawyer (6)
Taliaferro (29)
King (4)
Burnett (27)
Resolution

Type:

Title:

Commemoration of significance of Black History Month

Committee(s) Assignment:

oh

**A CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION Recognizing the Significance
of Black History Month**

WHEREAS, It has been the long-established custom of the Chicago City Council, this august Legislative body, to honor the legacy of those distinguished individuals and groups whose life, work and civic endeavor serve to enhance the quality of life for Chicagoans; and

Whereas the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Chicago historian set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black Americans; and

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the forerunner to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's efforts to enhance knowledge of Black history at the legendary Wabash YMCA; and

Whereas, the first Africans were brought involuntarily to the shores of the Americas as slaves, early as the 17th century; and

Whereas today, Africans in America and their descendants are now known as Black Americans or African-Americans; and

Whereas, African-Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of basic, fundamental rights; and

Whereas, despite slavery, African-Americans in all walks of life have made significant contributions throughout the history of the United States, including the Black man of Haitian descent, Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, who first settled in and founded the City of Chicago; and

Whereas, today we honor prominent African American Illinois legislators such as John W. E. Thomas of Chicago, the first African American Illinois legislator, who was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1876; and the first African American elected to the Illinois Senate was Adelbert H. Roberts in 1924.

Further, let's not forget Oscar DePriest, who in 1915 made history, becoming the first African-American elected Alderman in Chicago. DePriest was also the first African-American elected to Congress from the North, representing the 1st Congressional District in 1928 — and the first elected in the 20th century; and

Whereas, we salute the late Anna Langford, who was the first Black woman elected to the Chicago City Council in 1971 and the current City Council Black Caucus; and

Whereas, we further recognize Cecil ParTEE, the first African-American President of the Illinois Senate; as well as the late former Illinois Senator and Chicago's first Black Mayor Harold Washington; and

Whereas, we hereby celebrate the contributions of a few African-American achievers:

(1) Literature: The writings of Shonda Rhimes, Lorraine Hansberry, Booker T. Washington, Phyllis Wheatley, James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston, Gwendolyn Brooks, Richard Wright, Haki Madhubuti and Alex Haley;

(2) Music: The music of Thomas A. Dorsey, Willie Dixon, Mahalia Jackson, Curtis Mayfield, Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Bessie Smith, and Oscar Brown, Jr., Duke Ellington, Kanye West, Jennifer Hudson, Common, Prince, Dinah Washington, Chaka Kahn, Otis Clay, Chance the Rapper and countless other talented individuals;

(3) Arts & Athletics: The Resolve of artists like actor Andre Brauher, Dr. Margaret Burroughs, Archibald Motley, and Theaster Gates, to athletes such as Jackie Robinson, Michael Jordan, Ernie 'Mr. Cub' Banks, Althea Gibson, Jesse Owens, Wilma Rudolph, Syreena and Venus Williams, and Muhammad Ali;

(4) Science & Technology: The Scientific advancements of George Washington Carver, Charles Drew, Dr. Mark Dean, who invented the personal desktop computer for IBM, and Astronaut Mae Jemison;

(5) Leadership: The Vision of leaders such as Frederick Douglass, Mary McLeod Bethune, Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and ; and

(6) Civil Rights: The Bravery of those social justice and activist warriors who stood on the front lines in the battle against oppression, such as Sojourner Truth, Fannie Lou Hammer, and Rosa Parks, in addition to Chicago's own 'Hidden Figures' like Ruth Wells, a west side resident known as the Rosa Parks of Lawndale; and

(7) Whereas in the face of injustices, United States citizens of

all races committed themselves to the noble ideas upon which the United States was founded and courageously fought for the rights and freedom of African-Americans; and

Whereas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X and Medgar Evers, and countless other unsung 'heroes and sheroes' lived, worked, fought, marched and died to make real these noble ideas of Freedom, Equality & Opportunity; and

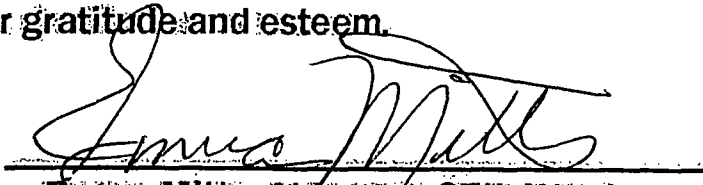
Whereas a memorial commemorating the life and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was placed on the National Mall for all people to observe his leadership in the struggle for freedom and truth; and the new National Museum of African-American History & Culture in Washington, D.C. stands as a testament to our historical and ongoing legacy of achievement; and

Whereas Barack Hussein Obama was elected and reelected the 44th President of the United States, making him the first African-American chief executive and overcoming one of the last great racial challenges in politics in this country, and his Presidential Library will be housed on the city's south side in his honor;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved that --- We the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council do hereby officially proclaim that this document, submitted on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 may be formally known as the "Chicago City Council Black History Month Resolution of 2017".

Be It Further Resolved, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and included in the official record of the Journal of Proceedings of the Chicago City Council in recognition of our gratitude and esteem.

Carrie M. Austin
34th Ward


Emma Mitts, Alderman-37th Ward

Subject: _____

Document No.: _____

Derek Cinto
(18 Ward)

[Signature]
(28 Ward)

[Signature]
(17 Ward)

[Signature]
(24 Ward)

Michelle A. Harris
(8th Ward)

[Signature]
(9th Ward)

[Signature]
(5th Ward)

Pat Howell
(3rd Ward)

[Signature]
(2 Ward)

Dillon Cahoon
(20 Ward)

[Signature]
(17 Ward)

[Signature]
(16 Ward)

Subject: _____

Document No.: _____

[Signature]

(6 Ward)

(_____ Ward)

Cliff Taylor

(29 Ward)

(_____ Ward)

[Signature]
4 Ward)

(_____ Ward)

Walter Burke St

(27 Ward) *St*

(_____ Ward)

(_____ Ward)

(_____ Ward)

(_____ Ward)

(_____ Ward)