



# City of Chicago



R2017-305

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 4/19/2017

**Sponsor(s):** Emanuel (Mayor)  
Reboyras (30)  
Laurino (39)  
O'Shea (19)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Gratitude extended to Chicago Firefighters William Monaco  
and James Sewnig for heroic actions

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

505P.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

April 19, 2017

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

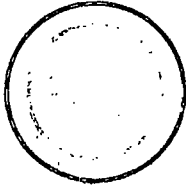
I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Reboyras, Laurino and O'Shea, a congratulatory resolution concerning the Chicago Fire Department.

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*

Aldermen Ariel Reboyras, Margaret Laurino,  
Matthew J. O'Shea, and

Presented by Mayor Rahm Emanuel on April 19, 2017

## Whereas

In the late evening of January 20, 2017, firefighters William Monaco and James Sewnig of Squad Company 5 of the Chicago Fire Department responded to a fire in the 7100 block of South Fairfield Avenue, in the Marquette Park neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, Members of Squad Company 5 arrived with their special rescue fire company and saw heavy fire and thick black smoke billowing from a two-story building; and

**WHEREAS**, Firefighters observed a heavy volume of fire coming from the basement and blowing like a torch that reached the eaves of the roof; and

**WHEREAS**, Acting quickly, the first engine company used a deck water gun to extinguish the fire, but the heat was so intense that the blaze flared up again; and

**WHEREAS**, The 20th Battalion Chief, Louis Bongiorno, ordered Squad Company 5 to search the two-unit building. Firefighters Monaco and Sewnig, despite encountering thick, heavy, black smoke, began to search the first-floor apartment. Visibility was zero and thermal imaging camera equipment was ineffective. As a result, these firefighters had to rely on feeling around in the engulfed structure in their search for possible victims; and

**WHEREAS**, Firefighter Sewnig came upon a bedroom and felt what seemed to be a lifeless body. With the assistance of Firefighter Monaco, Sewnig carried the person to the exterior of the building; and

**WHEREAS**, Both firefighters immediately began administering life saving techniques to the victim, a 16 year-old girl, who was not breathing and was unresponsive. Along with assistance from the ambulance company, they were able to revive the girl using CPR. The girl was transported to Holy Cross Hospital and later transferred to Loyola Hospital and into a hyperbolic chamber. The girl was released from the hospital, less than a week after nearly dying and is expected to make a full recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, Firefighters Monaco and Sewnig acted quickly, efficiently and with total disregard for their personal safety in performing a successful rescue and averting what could have been a tragedy. Firefighters Monaco and Sewnig performed their duties in the highest tradition of the Chicago Fire Department; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this nineteenth day of April, 2017, do hereby commend Firefighters William Monaco and James Sewnig for their skill and courage in rendering vital assistance to those in desperate need; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to Firefighters Monaco and Sewnig, and placed on permanent record in their personnel files, as a token of our appreciation and esteem.



*Rafael Emanuel*

MAYOR

*Andrea H. Valencia*

CITY CLERK