



City of Chicago



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Meeting Date:	11/8/2017
Sponsor(s):	Emanuel (Mayor) Reboyas (30) Harris (8)
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Committee(s) Assignment:	

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

November 8, 2017

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Reboyras and Harris, a congratulatory resolution concerning the Chicago Police Department.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor



A resolution

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



Presented by **Aldermen Michelle Harris, Ariel Reboyras**
and Mayor Rahm Emanuel

ON **November 8, 2017**

Whereas, Over the years, many renowned Americans have shared their thoughts on what it means to be a hero. Arthur Ashe observed: "True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever the cost." Henry Miller said: "The ordinary man is involved in action, the hero acts. An immense difference." N.D. Wilson wrote: "Sometimes standing against evil is more important than defeating it. The greatest heroes stand because it is right to do so, not because they believe they will walk away with their lives. Such selfless courage is a victory in itself." Piers Anthony stated: "Being terrified but going ahead and doing what must be done - that's courage." Christopher Reeves described a hero as "an ordinary person who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." Gerard Way remarked: "Heroes are ordinary people who make themselves extraordinary." And Maya Angelou exclaimed: "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and heroines!" and

WHEREAS, By any measure of the definition of heroism, Chicago Police Officer Breda Thomas (Star No. 18995) qualifies. She is one of many unsung heroes, who selflessly and at great personal risk, led people to safety following the tragic and heinous act of violence that occurred on the night of October 1, 2017, when a gunman opened fire on a crowd of concertgoers at the Route 91 Harvest music festival on the Las Vegas strip in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Firing hundreds of rifle rounds on the unsuspecting crowd from his suite on the 32nd floor of the nearby Mandalay Bay hotel, Stephen Paddock began shooting just as country music singer Jason Aldean was giving the closing performance before an audience of about 22,000 people; and

WHEREAS, The deadliest mass shooting committed by an individual in the United States, this horrific act of evil claimed the lives of 58 people, including 36 women and 22 men. The oldest victim was age 67; the youngest age 20. Six were from Nevada, 35 from California, 13 from other states, and four from Canada. An additional 546 people were injured; of these, 45 individuals remain hospitalized, some of them in critical condition; and

WHEREAS, Pandemonium quickly ensued as horrified concertgoers attempted to flee the concert venue for their lives. In the midst of the carnage, Officer Breda Thomas sprang into action; and

WHEREAS, In the words of concertgoer Rory Murray of San Bernardino, California, Officer Thomas' quick and selfless actions saved the life of Ms. Murray's friend. In Ms. Murray's words, as expressed in an e-mail she sent to Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson: "As horrible as this senseless tragedy was, I know it could have been a lot worse. I thank God that one of your own, Officer Breda Thomas, was in the crowd that night. As the carnage continued, Officer Thomas bravely led numerous concertgoers to safety. And then she unselfishly offered her own hotel room as shelter, wishing she had a larger room. . . . Officer Breda Thomas is a SUPERHERO. She saved the life of my friend . . . I truly believe that she has gone beyond the call of duty. I would love to see her get the recognition that she so richly deserves," and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Chicago are grateful for the opportunity to thank Chicago Police Officer Breda Thomas, a 22-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, for reminding all of us of the true meaning of heroism; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this eighth day of November, 2017, do hereby commend Police Officer Breda Thomas for her heroic actions under extremely dangerous and life threatening conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Police Officer Breda Thomas, and placed on permanent record in her personnel file, as a token of our appreciation and esteem.



Ral Emanuel
MAYOR

Andrea M. Valencia
CITY CLERK