



City of Chicago



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Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date: 11/21/2017

Sponsor(s): Emanuel (Mayor)
Reboyas (30)
Curtis (18)
Cochran (20)

Type: Resolution

Title: Gratitude extended to police officer Jennifer Maddox for community service and congratulations on selection as one of ten "CNN Heroes of the Year"

Committee(s) Assignment:



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

November 21, 2017

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Reboyras, Curtis and Cochran, 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 Ariel Reboyras, Willie Cochran, Derrick G. Curtis and
Mayor Rahm Emanuel _____ **ON** _____ **November 21, 2017**

Whereas, The Members of this Chamber are pleased to congratulate Chicago Police Officer Jennifer Maddox (Star #14803) for creating Future Ties, a not-for-profit organization serving disadvantaged youth in Chicago; and for being selected as one of CNN's Top Ten Heroes of 2017 in recognition of her extraordinary work on behalf of her community; and

WHEREAS, A proud member of the Chicago Police Department for more than twenty years, Officer Maddox observed firsthand the plight of children living in disadvantaged neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Troubled by the lack of opportunity, resources and community spaces for young people in these neighborhoods, and wishing to provide them with the same "sense of belonging" and "feeling of being at home, safe and at peace" that she experienced as a child growing up on Chicago's South Side, Officer Maddox launched Future Ties in 2011, while working during her off-hours as a security officer at Parkway Garden Homes, a low-income apartment complex located at 65th Street and Martin Luther King Drive. Noticing that the building's young residents often caused trouble because they were bored, Officer Maddox convinced the building's manager to allow her to use open space in the basement, where she could provide activities for children after school; and

WHEREAS, Future Ties began by offering after-school programming five days a week to 40 elementary school students. Today, Future Ties provides a safe space at Parkway Garden Homes to more than 100 children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Adult volunteers, as well as young people from the community, serve as role models and tutors. The participating children receive help with their homework; learn important life skills in workshops on topics ranging from nutrition to conflict resolution; and have access to computers. Future Ties uses Scholastic's ReadAbout literacy program and project-based learning to supplement what the children are learning in school; and

WHEREAS, Future Ties recently extended its after-school program to middle school and high school students. The program for older students includes preparation for college, such as ACT and SAT tutoring, and job skills training. Officer Maddox hopes that one day Future Ties will be able to reach all of the 1,200 youths living in Parkway Garden Homes; and

WHEREAS, Future Ties provides summer programming for students. This year, Future Ties hosted a summer camp for 35 teenagers, ages 16 to 18. The teenagers participated in a table discussion with Officer Maddox to share their opinions about programs, workshops and field trips that would be most appealing and beneficial to them; obtained training and certification in CPR; walked away with a completed resume; received business attire suitable for future job interviews; attended, along with supportive community members, family and friends, a block party fashion show, where the teens had an opportunity to display their swag; and, with the support of generous donors from across the City, they realized their dream of going to Great America, where a wonderful time was had by all. The teens are looking forward to attending Future Ties' summer camp next year as well; and

WHEREAS, Future Ties also sponsored a summer camp for over 100 younger students, ranging in age from 5 to 12 years, at Chicago's John Foster Dulles Elementary School. High school students served as counselors during the summer program, an arrangement which provided the younger children with positive role models, while enabling the older children to acquire work experience and marketable job skills; and

WHEREAS, Future Ties also supports adults and parents who live at Parkway Garden Homes by offering useful workshops, conducting domestic violence assessments, and providing mentorship programming; and

WHEREAS, The valuable work being done by Future Ties would not have been possible without the vision and dedication of its founder, Chicago Police Officer Jennifer Maddox; and

WHEREAS, Officer Maddox's achievements as founder of Future Ties, as well as those of nine other truly remarkable persons, will be highlighted on "CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute", a global broadcast event on CNN airing December 17th at 8:00 p.m., to honor "every day people doing extraordinary things to change the world." Each hero will receive a \$10,000 cash prize. One of them will be named "CNN Hero of the Year" and receive an additional \$100,000 for his or her cause, as well as training from the Annenberg Foundation; 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 November, 2017, do hereby commend Chicago Police Officer Jennifer Maddox for her many years of exceptional service as a Chicago police officer; for her tireless efforts, through Future Ties, to "help young people and families on the South Side of Chicago become the best version of themselves"; and for reminding all of us how one person can truly make a difference. We wish Officer Maddox the best of luck as she vies for the title of 2017 "CNN Hero of the Year"; and

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



Rafael Emanuel

MAYOR

Andrea H. Valencia

CITY CLERK