

WHEREAS, During October, the United States observes Polish American Heritage Month, a national celebration of Polish history, culture, and pride; and

WHEREAS, In October, the Polish American community celebrates the arrival of the first Polish settlers to Jamestown, Virginia in 1608, and commemorates the deaths of Generals Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko, both distinguished military leaders who fought for the independence of the United States during the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Polish people have long been an integral part of America's history and culture, and millions immigrated to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, bringing with them a love for independence, their culture, their new country, and values shared by Poles and Americans alike; and

WHEREAS, An organized Polish American community first appeared in Chicago in the late 1860s with the establishment of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish. Since the 1860s, Polish immigrants have come to Chicago in four separate waves resulting from economic and political challenges at home. These immigrants brought their knowledge and ethic of hard work to a developing nation, and their presence has largely shaped the Chicago we see today; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago metropolitan area is now home to over 1.9 million people of Polish descent, making it the largest and most established Polish community in the world outside of Poland. Chicago's Polish population includes teachers, builders, entrepreneurs, and activists who have worked hard for their families and communities, as well as their own success; and

WHEREAS, The presence of Chicago's large Polish American population is shown in a number of influential organizations, such as the Polish Museum of America, the Polish American Association, the Polish National Alliance, and the Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the impact of Polish Americans on the City's development, Chicago made Warsaw its first Sister City in 1960. This relationship has helped build connections between each city's business and artistic communities, as well as encourage tourism; and

WHEREAS, Chicago's history and cultural wealth have been shaped and enriched by Polish-Americans and their commitment to helping make our city a better place to live, work, and raise families; and

WHEREAS, The City's Polish heritage can be seen all over Chicago on street signs, at parks, and on schools. This heritage is our past, our present, and our future; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this sixteenth day of October, 2019, do hereby celebrate October as Polish American Heritage Month, and recognize the many and substantial contributions that Polish Americans have made to both the development of our Nation and to the City of Chicago.

resolution

adopted by *gj'fy QoUHCU*

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Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, Aldermen Ariel Reboyras, Christopher Taliaferro,

resented by James M. Gardiner

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October 16, 2019

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