

WHEREAS, state law currently requires Chicago's museums to be open to Illinois residents without charge for a period equivalent to 52 days, at least 6 of which must be during the period from June through August, each year; and

WHEREAS, since 1891, the City of Chicago, the South Park Commissioners, and the Chicago Park District have granted Chicago's museums permission to use and occupy public property on the condition that they offer free days to the public; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the City of Chicago subsidize Chicago's museums each year through the payment of property taxes; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, the Chicago Park District has budgeted more than \$30 million annually to fund Chicago's museums; and

WHEREAS, admission fees generally account for less than 15 percent of the operating budgets of Chicago's museums; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago prides itself on offering its residents affordable access to world-class art and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Adler Planetarium, Art Institute of Chicago, and Museum of Science and Industry have raised admission fees in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago City Council seeks to ensure that all Chicago residents, including those on modest budgets, have the ability to access Chicago's world-class museums; NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, do hereby urge House Speaker J. Michael Madigan, Senate President John J. Cullerton, the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Bruce Rauner to oppose HB0263 and any reduction in the number of mandated free days at Chicago's museums; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Speaker Madigan, President Cullerton, the members of the Chicago delegation of the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Rauner.

2