



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

File #: R2014-643, Version: 1

SALUTE TO BRETT AND RENNIE SPARKS

WHEREAS, For more than two decades, the much-acclaimed songwriting team of Brett and Rennie Sparks, known as the Handsome Family, have been crafting a unique blend of true and tall tales tinted with modern melodies of darkly colored melancholy that historically pervade the American folk tradition; and

WHEREAS, Vocalist and composer Brett Sparks is a native of Odessa, Texas, where he studied music and briefly worked around the oil rigs of which that city is famous. In the mid-'90s, he came to live in Chicago with his wife, fiction writer Rennie Sparks, a New Yorker from Long Island whom he married in 1988. In 2002, the Handsome Family released an album they recorded at Schuba's, one of this city's iconic live music venues. Today, the Handsome Family do all their record all their in a converted garage studio at their home in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Although they have enjoyed a vociferous and loyal following, the Handsome Family's poignant and powerful music has garnered the attention of a much wider audience with the selection of their 2003 recording of "Far From Any Road" as the theme for "True Detective's", cable-TV giant Home Box Office's Emmy award-winning series starring Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson; and

WHEREAS, On September 5, 2014, the Handsome Family will be appearing at the Hideout Block Party & Onion A.V. Fest, once again bringing back to this city their remarkably eclectic mix of macabre, sweet-sad ballads and historic story lines that mark their alternative country/traditionalist music; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert W. Fioretti, Alderman of the 2nd Ward, has apprised this august body of this extraordinary and remarkable duo and their significant musical achievements; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the City of Chicago City Council, assembled here this 10th day of September, 2014 AD, salute Brett and Rennie Sparks for their exceptional and distinctive talents and noteworthy artistic contributions and declare September 5, 2014 to be "Brett and Rennie Sparks Day" in Chicago.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Brett and Rennie Sparks a.k.a. the Handsome Family.