



# Office of the City Clerk

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## Legislation Text

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

MAYOR

December 15, 2021

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Sigcho-Lopez, Martin, Sadlowski Garza, Vasquez, Ramirez-Rosa, Silverstein, Coleman, Cappleman, Taylor, Waguespack, Hadden, Smith, Scott, Ervin, Lopez, Dowell, O'Shea, Rodriguez, Osterman, Hopkins, King, Villegas, La Spata, Brookins, Hairston, Thompson, Burnett, Rodriguez-Sanchez, Nugent and Tunney, a memorial resolution honoring the life and memory of civil rights icon Timuel "Tim" Black.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Timuel "Tim" Black, a beloved activist, educator, and historian, on October 13, 2021, at age 102; and

WHEREAS, Tim was born on December 7, 1918, in Birmingham, Alabama, to Mattie and Timuel Black. The youngest of three children, Tim and his family relocated to Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood to seek better opportunities when Tim was a baby; and

WHEREAS, Tim graduated from DuSable High School in 1937, and he went on to work in several ma-and-pa stores to support his family; and

WHEREAS, In 1943, Tim was drafted into the Army, where he served in the 308<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Railhead Company and fought on D-Day and in the Battle of the Bulge. He received four bronze Battle Stars and the French Croix de Guerre for his service before being honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, After World War II, Tim returned to Chicago and received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Roosevelt University in 1952, and a master's degree in history and sociology from the University of Chicago in 1954; and

WHEREAS, During his career, Tim held many different jobs serving many different populations, including as a high school history teacher and social worker; president of the Chicago chapter of the Negro American Labor Council; and dean, vice president, and professor at the City Colleges of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Driven to fight for equality for all, Tim was a passionate civil rights activist. Among his many accomplishments, Tim led freedom trains from Chicago to Dr. Martin Luther King's 1963 March on Washington and helped establish organizations like the Chicago League of Negro Voters and the Congress of Racial Equality. Tim also protested Chicago housing and public school segregation; and

WHEREAS, Tim's passion for civil rights carried over to politics. Tim was instrumental in Harold Washington's 1983 campaign for Chicago mayor. Tim also served as an adviser for Carol Moseley Braun's campaign for United States senator and Barack Obama's campaign for state office and president; and

WHEREAS, Tim stayed involved in academia after retiring as a professor. He continued lecturing at various Chicago-area universities and wrote two volumes of oral histories on the Great Migration of African Americans to Chicago as well as a memoir titled Sacred Ground: The Chicago Streets of Timuel Black; and

WHEREAS, An iconic activist, advocate, and mentor, Tim will be remembered for his passion and drive to bring transformative change to all communities. For his immeasurable accomplishments, Tim received more than 10 honorary degrees and sat on more than 50 organization boards in his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his son Timuel Kerrigan Black, Tim is survived by his wife, Zenobia; daughter, Ermetra; and many other family members and friends; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this fifteenth day of December, 2021, do hereby honor the life and memory of Timuel Black and extend our most sincere condolences to Timuel Black's family, friends, and

all those that knew him; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Timuel "Tim" Black as a sign of our sympathy, gratitude, honor, and respect.

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