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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

June 27, 2018

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Burke, Austin, O'Connor, Joe Moore and Osterman, a resolution honoring the life and memory of our former colleague Marion Volini.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Mayor

Very truly yours,

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Chicago, Illinois

Presented by Mayor Rahm Emanuel . on

Aldermen Edward M. Burke, Carrie M. Austin, Patrick J. O'Connor, Joe Moore, Harry Osterman, and

June 27, 2018

The Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Mayor Rahm Emanuel on May 21, 2018, at age 83, of our former colleague, Alderman Marion Voiini of the 48th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini was born on November 27, 1934 on Chicago's south side to Marion Mitchell and Edward J. Kennedy. She attended Maria High School, and later moved to the City's north side to attend and graduate from Mundelein College; and

she has five children. In addition to her political career, she has worked in various capacities in the public and private sectors.

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini was instrumental in leading efforts to upgrade the Edgewater and Uptown neighborhoods, which at that time were known as a deteriorated area; and

WHEREAS, Through her leadership and vigorous efforts, Alderman Voiini improved the area, addressing issues such as the large transient population, unemployed workers, property owners, and vacant storefronts; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini also took on the many unlicensed and unregulated alcohol treatment clinics, as well as half-way houses for state-released patients of mental health facilities, in order to improve the quality of life for residents throughout her neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini also served her community as president of the Edgewater Community Council. Among her many accomplishments was the preservation of the Broadway Armory as a community recreation center; and

WHEREAS, With her reputation as a community leader firmly established, in 1978 Alderman Voiini ran for and won a special election to serve out the unexpired term of 48th Ward Alderman Dennis Block; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini celebrated the broad diversity of the 48th Ward, finding great value in the wide range of housing types, ethnicities, and ages of its residents. She was an early proponent of the

gay rights movement, and was a driving force in the creation of Edgewater as an official community area; and

WHEREAS, During her time as alderman, Alderman Voiini served under Chicago's first female mayor, Jane Byrne. Throughout her career she was dedicated to empowering more women to run for political office; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini also served under Chicago's first African American mayor, Harold Washington. Drawing upon her experience as a community organizer representing a very diverse population, Alderman Voiini gained national attention when she helped negotiate a compromise to a four-week stalemate between Mayor Washington and a majority of alderman opposed to his policies; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini's efforts on this issue caused her to emerge as a leader in the City Council. Her motivation to assume a leadership role was her belief in the process to equal distribute the city's resources, and that no one should be excluded from the governmental process because of race or ethnicity.

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini's efforts to revitalize the Edgewater community and improve the quality of life for its residents are a testament to her leadership and dedication to the City of Chicago.

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini continued to serve the residents of Chicago in 1987, Alderman Voiini continued to serve the residents of Chicago by appointing her to the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, during which time she was instrumental in helping to make improvements to both the Navy Pier and the Millennium Park.

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini was a strong advocate for her constituents, and offered her colleagues on the City Council thoughtful consideration of often difficult and controversial matters. She had an exceptional talent for finding the common ground between parties with differences, and often had friends on both sides of an issue. She had a warm, thoughtful and intelligent nature, a strong sense of fairness and a passion for justice, and will always be remembered as an exemplary public servant of the residents of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini, whose husband preceded her in death in 2001, is survived by her sons Michael and David; daughters Marion, Marcella, and Monica; and grandchildren Mary Claire, Nora, Tom, Joe, Matt, Ryan, Christian, Camille, Emily, and Michael; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-seventh day of June, 2018, do hereby honor the life and memory of Alderman Marion Voiini; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Alderman Marion Voiini as a token of our sympathy and esteem.

