



# Office of the City Clerk

City Hall  
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## Legislation Text

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Committee on Transportation and Public Way City Council  
Meeting, December 12, 2012 Alderman Brendan Reilly, 42<sup>nd</sup>  
Ward Substitute Order

### **SUBSTITUTE ORDER**

WHEREAS, For over 25 years Herman Schuenemann, known as "Captain Santa," brought a shipload of Christmas trees to the southwest corner of the Clark Street Bridge each Christmas season to sell and give away to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Herman Schuenemann's "Christmas tree ship" was well known to Chicagoans, who looked forward to its arrival each year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schuenemann made yearly voyages to the upper peninsula of Michigan to bring Christmas trees to Chicago. The influx of German settlers in the Chicago area with their Christmas tree customs helped make this a successful venture; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schuenemann was one of about 50 captains that shipped Christmas trees on Lake Michigan from 1880-1920, he sold directly to the public; and

WHEREAS, One hundred years ago on November 23, 1912, the schooner "Rouse Simmons" sank near Two Rivers, Wisconsin. The schooner was likely overloaded with trees and the entire crew perished; and

WHEREAS, After his death, his wife Barbara carried on by transporting the trees by rail then transferring them to the schooner "Oneida" which was docked on the Chicago River. She carried this on until her death in 1933; and

WHEREAS, To honor the memory of Herman Schuenemann and the loss of the "Rouse Simmons", the honorable Brendan Reilly is authorizing and directing the installation of a plaque on the Clark Street Bridge, which sits in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward; now, therefore

BE IT ORDERED, In the event that a commemorative plaque, in form and content acceptable to the Commissioner of Housing and Economic Development, is provided to the City at no cost to the City, then the Commissioner of Transportation shall install said plaque in a suitable location on the Clark Street Bridge.

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Brendan Reilly Alderman, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
**CITY COUNCIL**

City of Chicago

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Committees, Rules and Ethics

Education and Child Development

Finance

Public Safety

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January 14, 2013

To the President and Members of the City Council:

Your Committee on Transportation and Public Way begs leave to report and recommend that Your Honorable Body pass To commemorate the memory of Herman Schuenemann, known as "Captain Santa" and the loss of the "Rouse Simmons" schooner incident that occurred on November 23, 1912, by installing a plaque on the Clark Street Bridge. This ordinance was referred to the Committee on December 12, 2012.

This recommendation was concurred unanimously by a viva voce vote of the members of the Committee with no dissenting vote.

(Ward 42)

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony^B'