



Office of the City Clerk

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Mendoza (Clerk) Resolution

Tribute to late Honorable JoAnn Thompson

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

March 10,2015

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a resolution honoring the life and memory of our dear friend and colleague JoAnn Thompson.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Mayor

Very truly yours,

adopted by The City Council

of the City of Chicago, Illinois

CITY CLERK SUSANA A. MENDOZA

presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL

on MARCH 10, 2015

^^QIIBTGUS > With profound sadness and an overwhelming sense of loss, the Members of this Chamber mourn the death, on February 9, 2015, at age 58, of our friend and colleague Alderman JoAnn Thompson. Affectionately known as "Jo" by her family and close friends. Alderman Thompson served the people of the 16th Ward, comprising the Englewood and Gage Park neighborhoods, with impeccable dignity and honor; and ^

WHEREAS, Born on September 18, 1956, Alderman Thompson was raised on the South Side of Chicago. An intelligent and gifted person, who readily took on difficult assignments. Alderman Thompson served as a lieutenant in the Cook County Department of Corrections prior to becoming an alderman; and

WHEREAS, A strong and resilient woman. Alderman Thompson was not a stranger to hardship. She overcame a period of homelessness, rebounded from the death of her beloved husband in 1992, and triumphed in a bout with alcoholism following that tragic loss. Alderman Thompson was a conqueror, crediting God and a social worker at the Chicago Christian Industrial League with helping her to turn her life around. She took justifiable pride in her recovery, telling her constituents: "I represent hope"; and

WHEREAS, First elected to the Chicago City Council on April 17, 2007, and re-elected on April 5, 2011, Alderman Thompson was a tireless advocate for her community. She sponsored 437 pieces of legislation, and she was instrumental in enacting legislation to ban the sale of flavored tobacco and synthetic marijuana in Chicago. An exceptional leader, Alderman Thompson served as the Vice Chair of the City Council Committee on License and Consumer Protection, as an active member of the Black Caucus, and as Committeeman of the 16th Ward; and

WHEREAS, A public servant par excellence, who cared deeply about children, Alderman Thompson understood that the prosperity of q community is expressed in the advancement of its'.people. Committed to bringing jobs, economic prosperity and educational opportunities to the l6th Ward,-Alderman Thompson attracted a Whole Foods grocery store jo the corner of Halsted Street and 63rd Street in ;Eh^lbwpqd; 'iobb State legislators to provide : capital improvement,- funding for _fljj-'S.chools'.and sparks jn the 16th. Ward; and secured, q \$3.5 tfrnilpn.^

AjgymndsiUm^ Oliver ^Wendell jHolmes : Elementary School; and / - , ^.:'-K [■" ■" ^V; ' '-r'^"

WHEiREAS, :?AW^ most vulnerable j-citizehs./^5he cared, deeply ^db^ ' chronically homeless, the disabled arid the sick.-Thariks to her/efforts, the'Bethel Terjtace^Serior^)ipusirig^}or ^e^6r ;:ci^^ns^ wq^e'xjp^n^ed conplexes fbr^

ijv^firsf j^ehde^ Nation :!qnd the ^firsf Vetera

■Englewood, d \$17 ' million, 99-unlt7 suppprtve ^

chronically homeless and disqbled/i 6pejne.d it^ "d^rs) ^qnd the 'Access Health Mfedicql .Cqmp'u^Whidh. includes ^ ■ research .center; -Was"Built dt 52^ . Street aha" Asnldnd Avenue; arid '■■■

WHEREAS,f,A firm believerMn jrieighbdrhoo.d beautificationVdnd equality of

life,^Alderman Thb totaling'hior than

\$5 million, thaiawarded /grants jo" more neighborhood residents for

sorely needed -repairs to their property;^^ the innovative "Lots of

Change" program, which br6ughV"i2>]bO "coljege students froh across the Country to the

16^h Ward to assist in the clean-up of vacant lots; and established the first-ever 16th Ward

Musical Festival and the award-winning 16^h Ward Track and Field Team; and

WHEREAS, Widely admired for her personal courage, leadership and grace. Alderman JoAnn Thompson will always be remembered for her caring spirit and genuine smile, and as an exemplary public servant with an abiding affection for the people of Chicago. Her legacy of service, love and compassion survives in the beautiful family she left behind

WHEREAS, Alderman JoAnn Thompson, by her three children, Joseph; Melinda; and Perrica, and her family;

■ ■ BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of JoAnn Thompson and her family;

presented for the City of Chicago as a sign of our sympathy and respect. [Signature]

MAYOR

CITY CLERK