



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

April 19,2017

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Reboyras, Laurino and O'Shea, a congratulatory resolution concerning the Chicago Fire Department.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Mayor

Very truly yours,

April 19.2017

, Aldermen Ariel Reboyras, Margaret Laurino, -'K^'.
Matthew j. O'Shea, and : ^
Mavor Rahm Emanuel OM

'Whereas , In the late evening of January 20, .2017, firefighters William Monaco and;
D'-f ire Depdrtmentjesponded;to^g.fire:.

iruth the 700 block of South Fairfield Avenue, in the Marquette Park neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Members of Squad Company 5 arrived with their special rescue, fire company and saw heavy fire and thick black smoke billowing from a two-story building; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters observed a heavy volume of fire coming from the basement and blowing like a torch that reached the eaves of the roof; and

WHEREAS, Acting quickly, the first engine company used a deck water gun to extinguish the fire, but the heat was so intense that the blaze flared up again

WHEREAS, The 20th Battalion Chief, Louis Bongiorno, ordered Squad Company 5 to search the two-unit building. Firefighters Monaco and Sewnig, despite countering thick, heavy, black smoke, began to search the first-floor apartment. Visibility was zero and thermal imaging camera equipment was ineffective. As a result, these firefighters had to rely on feeling around in the engulfed structure for their search for possible victims; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Sewnig came upon a bedroom and felt what seemed to be a lifeless body. With the assistance of Firefighter Monaco, Sewnig carried the person to the exterior of the building; and

WHEREAS, Both firefighters immediately began administering life-saving techniques to the victim, a 7-year-old girl, who was not breathing and was unresponsive. Along with assistance from the ambulance company, they were able to revive the girl using CPR. The girl was transported to Holy Cross Hospital and later transferred to Loyola Hospital and into a hyperbaric chamber. The girl was released from the hospital, less than a week after nearly dying and is expected to make a full recovery; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters Monaco and Sewnig acted quickly, efficiently and with total disregard for their personal safety in performing a successful rescue and averting what could have been a tragedy. Firefighters Monaco and Sewnig performed their duties in the highest tradition of the Chicago Fire Department; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City

of Chicago, assembled; this nineteenth day of April, 2017; do hereby commend

Firefighters William McDonough and James Sewnig for their skill and courage in rendering

vital assistance to those in desperate need; and; - . - . • ""

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies, of this resolution be presented to

Firefighters Monaco and Sewnig, and placed on permanent record in their personnel

files, as a token of our appreciation and esteem.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK