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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

January 17, 2018

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Joseph A. Moore and Brian Hopkins, a congratulatory resolution concerning the Sullivan High School Soccer Team.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Mayor

Very truly yours,

resolution

adopted by the City Council of the City of Chicago, Illinois

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Aldermen Joseph A. Moore, Brian Hopkins, and

represented by Mayor Rahm Emanuel

on January 17, 2018

Whereas, The Roger C. Sullivan High School Boys Soccer Team, better known as the "Tigers," has been incredibly successful on the soccer field for the last two years, clinching the regional championship and competing as sectional finalists; and

WHEREAS, The City Council was informed of the Team's exceptional performance in 2016 and 2017 by the Honorable Joseph Moore, Alderman of the 49th Ward and the Honorable Brian Hopkins, Alderman of the 2nd Ward; and

WHEREAS, Part of the Chicago Public School system, Sullivan High School is located in the Rogers Park neighborhood, a true "melting pot" community, which is home to thousands of refugees, asylum-seekers and immigrants. Among the most diverse urban communities in the Nation, Rogers Park, with its abundance of ethnic mutual aid societies and affordable housing, has absorbed its newcomers with unusual equanimity. Sullivan High School boasts a student body of approximately 700 culturally diverse young men and women, who collectively speak more than 40 different languages; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan High School's Boys Soccer Team reflects that diversity. The 2016 Team consisted of 18 players from 11 different countries, many of whom had arrived in the United States so recently that they had yet to fully master the English language. This seemingly insurmountable obstacle, however, did not deter them from overcoming the language barrier to produce a winning team; and

WHEREAS, In the final moments before the kick-off to the 2016 regional championship game, Sullivan soccer coach Migert Baburi, himself an immigrant, who fled unrest in his native Albania two decades ago, inspired his players with a rousing pep talk, reminding them of the tremendous challenges they had overcome both on and off the soccer field to make it to the verge of the first regional title in Sullivan High School's history. "Whatever happens today," he said, "you need to know I am very proud of you. You're the best team I've had not because of talent, but because you found a way to work together to win." Breaking from the huddle with a roar, this unlikely group of champions launched a swift and decisive attack on the opposing team to clinch the regional title; and

WHEREAS, The truly inspiring story of the achievements of the 2016 Sullivan High School Boys Soccer Team against overwhelming odds, and of the remarkable coach who made that success possible, are chronicled in the documentary "Sullivan" by New York filmmaker Anthony Pellino; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan High School's 2017 Boys Soccer Team was equally diverse. It also consisted of students from eleven, different countries, including Burma, Burundi, Congo, El Salvador, Iraq, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Mexico, Myanmar, and the United States. Clearly inspired by their Team's success in 2016, and under the guiding hand of Head Coach Migert Baburi and Assistant Coach Lisa Romoser, the 2017 Sullivan High School Boys Soccer Team repeated the previous year's performance, once again demonstrating Sullivan High School's athletic prowess on the soccer field as 2017 regional champions and sectional finalists; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this seventeenth day of January, 2018, do hereby congratulate Head Coach Migert Baburi, Assistant Coach Lisa Romoser, and the following members of Sullivan High School's 2017 Boys Soccer Team for their stellar performance this year on the soccer field: Ombeni Alfred, Simon Aye, Destin Biboussi, Alejandro Duran, Jesus Duran, Jason Gonzalez, Freddy Irakizd, Joseph Iraquha, Thang Khup, Anacletus Masalu, Jose Mora, Erick Morquecho, Hraishawi Muratadha, Kamil Murtadha, Justin Mutabazi, Wilson Nyibampa, Osvaldo Ramos, and Bawi Sang; and extend to them our best wishes for continued success; and