



Office of the City Clerk

City Hall
121 N. LaSalle St.
Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
www.chicityclerk.com

Legislation Text

File #: R2018-470, Version: 1

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Lincoln Park Zoo was established in 1868 with the gift of a two pairs of swans from New York City's Central Park; and

WHEREAS In 1878 the Commissioners resolved that the zoo shall always be free and open to the public; and

WHEREAS, Starting in 1888 Cyrus DeVry supervised the construction of new structures to house many new animal species, including monkeys and elephants; and

WHEREAS, The first three decades of the 20th Century saw construction of Cafe Brauer, Bird House, Lion House and Primate House, all landmark structures that grace the grounds of the zoo today; and

WHEREAS, Marlin Perkins became Zoo Director in 1944, bringing the animals and their individual stories into homes through NBC's Zoo Parade; and

WHEREAS, The year 1959 saw the foundation of The Lincoln Park Zoological Society by philanthropists and civic leaders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester Fisher became Zoo Director in 1962, beginning a 30-year tenure that oversaw the society raise over \$400 million for new exhibits and improved animal care; and

WHEREAS, In 1976 the most advanced habitat for great apes opened, which was later named for Dr. Fisher, and the same year saw the hiring of current Zoo Director Kevin Bell as Curator of Birds; and

WHEREAS, With just two staff members the Conservation and Science department launched in 1989, forming the foundation of one of the nation's largest and most effective wildlife conservation and science programs; and

WHEREAS, The year 1995 saw the Lincoln Park Zoo and Chicago Park District enter a 30-year agreement shifting the zoo to self-governance, the same year saw the Zoo Society's Board of Trustee's adopting full-time management of zoo operations as well as appointing Kevin Bell as President and CEO; and

WHEREAS, 1995 launched the five-year "Heart of the Zoo" campaign, raising over \$50 million for new and renovated animal habitats including the Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House; and

WHEREAS, The Davee Center for Epidemiology was created in 2001 to bridge the gap between population biology and veterinary medicine through the study of epidemiology, and was expanded in 2005 to incorporate endocrinology research, making it the Davee Center for Epidemiology and Endocrinology; and

WHEREAS, the first decade of the 21st century saw the opening of three major new exhibits in the Regenstein Center for African Apes, the Regenstein African Journey and the renovated Pritzker Family Children's Zoo; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Urban Wildlife Institute was founded, becoming the most comprehensive urban wildlife conservation and science program in the country and one that has been adopted by ten cities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The year 2010 saw the Zoo enter into a partnership with the Chicago Park District to unveil the Nature Boardwalk, a complete refurbishment and of The South Pond; and

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WHEREAS, 2016 saw the Zoo joining a partnership with Chicago's Little Village neighborhood in launching its Community Engagement Initiative as well as the announcement of their current, \$125 million "The Pride of Chicago" campaign which has already resulted in the opening of the Regenstein Macaque Forest, the Walter Family Arctic Tundra and the Robert & Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove; and

WHEREAS, In 2017 the Zoo unveiled plans for its new visitor center to better serve guests and the people of the City of Chicago as the Zoo welcomes the 3.7 million annual visitors; and

WHEREAS, In 2018 the Zoo announced one of the most ambitious capital projects in their 150 year-year history as they conduct a complete overhaul of the Kovler Lion House; and

WHEREAS, The Zoo remains the nation's only privately managed free admission zoo in the United States of America; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 23rd day of May, 2018, do hereby acknowledge and appreciate the importance of the Lincoln Park Zoo on the cultural fabric of our City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Chicago hereby congratulates the Lincoln Park Zoo on their 150th anniversary.

Michele Smith Alderman, 43rd Ward

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution are presented to the Lincoln Park Zoo as a sign of our honor, gratitude and respect. A