



Office of the City Clerk

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

October 31, 2018

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Austin, Beale, Brookins Jr., Burnett Jr., Cochran, Curtis, Dowell, Ervin, Foulkes, Hairston, Harris, King, Mitchell, Mitts, David Moore, Sawyer, Scott Jr. and Taliaferro, a congratulatory resolution concerning the Johnson Family and Ebony Magazine.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Mayor

Very truly yours,

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Johnson Family has had a tremendous impact in Chicago through their immensely successful business, Johnson Publishing Company, and generosity to charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of the Johnson Family's contributions by Alderman Sophia King and Mayor Rahm Emanuel; and

WHEREAS, John H. Johnson was the founder and head of the Johnson Publishing Company. He is regarded as one of the most successful and influential African-American business leaders in the United

States; and

WHEREAS, John Johnson relocated to Chicago with his mother, Gertrude, after his father, Leroy, was killed in a sawmill accident when Johnson was just six years old. After graduating from DuSable High School and the University of Chicago in 1942, Johnson took out a \$500 loan using his mother's furniture as collateral to open the doors of Johnson Publishing Company; and

WHEREAS, Johnson Publishing Company produced the groundbreaking Ebony and Jet magazines, which were an integral part of the civil rights movement, sharing African American culture with readers all over the world; and

WHEREAS, Fashion Fair is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Johnson Publishing Company and was created for women of color by the late Eunice W. Johnson, the creator of the Ebony Fashion Fair Show. As a pioneering businesswoman, Johnson took the risk that most major cosmetic companies refused to take by entering the untapped market of makeup for women of color; and

WHEREAS, Johnson Publishing Company produces the Ebony Fashion Fair (the world's largest traveling fashion show), which has donated over \$47 million to charity; and

WHEREAS, For six decades John Johnson remained at the helm of Johnson Publishing, growing it into a multi-million-dollar business that, in addition to publishing, branched out into fashion, cosmetics, radio and television; and

WHEREAS, Johnson Publishing Company is currently led by John Johnson's daughter, Chairman and CEO Linda Johnson Rice; and

WHEREAS, Johnson Publishing helped shape the civil rights movement through its magazines by sharing positive stories and imagery of African Americans that changed the attitudes of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2012, the United States Postal Service honored John H. Johnson with a commemorative stamp as an addition to its Black Heritage Series; and \

WHEREAS, In 2017, the Johnson Publishing Company Building was designated a historic landmark. It is the only high rise office building in downtown Chicago designed by an African American, John Warren Moutoussamy; and

WHEREAS, The Johnson Family has made valuable contributions to the history of the

City of Chicago and created a legacy that will be strong for years to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this thirty-first day of October, 2018, do hereby extend our heartfelt best wishes to the Johnson Family; and

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