



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT MAYOR

February 19, 2020

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Dowell, King, Hairston, Sawyer, Mitchell, Harris, Beale, Coleman, Moore, Curtis, Taylor, Brookins Jr., Scott Jr., Burnett Jr., Ervin, Taliaferro, Austin, Mitts, Martin, and Hadden, a congratulatory resolution concerning Nikole Hannah-Jones.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, It is especially appropriate during Black History Month for the Members of this Chamber to honor author and investigative reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones for her lifelong commitment to journalism, and particularly for her steadfast and dedicated coverage of race relations and civil rights in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hannah-Jones' career in journalism began at a young age in Waterloo, Iowa, where she attended an almost all-white school as part of a voluntary school busing desegregation program. She wrote about her experiences in the high school newspaper; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, Ms. Hannah-Jones earned a bachelor's degree in History and African-American Studies from the University of Notre Dame. In 2003, she graduated with a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Journalism and Mass Communications, where she was a Roy H. Park Fellow; and

WHEREAS, After completing her graduate studies, Ms. Hannah-Jones began her career in journalism

covering education for, the Raleigh News and Observer, a position she held for three years, before moving to Portland, Oregon, where, for six years, she did feature work for The Oregonian and expanded her writing portfolio to include demographics, government, and the census; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by Ida B. Wells, Ethel Payne, Simeon Booker, Claude Sitton and other heroic beat reporters who wrote about race in the face of adversity and frequent threats against their lives, Ms. Hannah-Jones joined the New York-based, non-profit news organization ProPublica in 2011, where she worked for three years as an investigative reporter covering civil rights and chronicling how official policies and laws, such as redlining and lack of enforcement of the Fair Housing Act, perpetuate systemic and institutional racism; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, Ms. Hannah-Jones became a staff reporter for The New York Times, where, in 2019, she wrote the first essay published as part of the 1619 Project to mark the 400th anniversary of American slavery, an ongoing initiative begun by The New York Times Magazine, which "aims to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative"; and

WHEREAS, An internationally recognized authority on housing discrimination, racial segregation, and the desegregation and re-segregation of American schools, Ms. Hannah-Jones' many accomplishments include serving on the National Advisory Commission for Civil Disorders and being named Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Black Journalists. A three-time recipient of the Society of Professional Journalists, Pacific Northwest, Excellence in Journalism Award, Ms. Hannah-Jones is also a recipient of the 2012 Gannett Foundation Innovation in Watchdog Journalism Award; 2013 Sidney Award for outstanding investigative journalism in service of the common good; 2015 Peabody Award; 2015 Fred M. Hechinger Grand Prize for Distinguished Education Reporting; 2016 George Polk Award for radio reporting; and 2017 MacArthur Foundation Award. A 2017 Emerson Fellow at the New

America Foundation, she is currently writing a book on school segregation, titled The Problem We All Live With, which is scheduled for publication in June; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her many literary achievements, in 2015, along with fellow African-American journalists Ron Nixon, Corey Johnson and Topher Sanders, Ms. Hannah-Jones cofounded the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, which provides fellowships, training and mentorship to aspiring journalists of color around the United States and partners with numerous universities to promote the study of journalism; 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 February, 2020, do hereby recognize Nikole Hannah-Jones for her stellar career in journalism, and for her unfailing commitment to promoting honest discussions about race in America, to confronting racial injustice and inequality, and to better protecting the civil rights of all Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Nikole Hannah-Jones as a token of our appreciation and esteem.

resolution

adoped by The City Council of the City of Chicago, Illinois

resented by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and
Members of the Chicago Black Caucus

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*k^p.

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