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Legislation Text

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT MAYOR

July 20, 2022

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen O'Shea, Curtis, Tabares, Lopez, Tunney, Smith, Hopkins, Reboyras, Villegas, Ervin, Mitts, Osterman, Rodriguez, Ramirez-Rosa, Nugent, Brookins, Cappleman, Hadden, Waguespack, Vasquez, Dowell, Sposato and Martin, a resolution honoring labor leader Charles Loverde upon his retirement.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Charles "Chuck" LoVerde is retiring from his positions as Secretary-Treasurer of the Laborers' District Council and President of Laborers' Local 1092, following a lifetime of championing Chicago's working class; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Chicago has been informed of this milestone by the Honorable Matthew J. O'Shea, Alderman of the 19th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Charles was born in the Roseland neighborhood in 1961, and began working for the City in 1977 in a role that would now be known as a construction laborer in the Department of Water Management; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, as a business agent for Local 1092, Charles organized laborers in the City's Department of Sewers to join Local 1092 despite working in an era when public sector locals did not have collective bargaining rights; and

WHEREAS, When public sector unions finally earned their collective bargaining rights, Charles helped negotiate the first collective bargaining agreement for City workers, and, for 20 years, Charles played a critical role in negotiating contracts between the City and Local 1092, protecting members during mergers of City departments, negotiating an overtime policy to ensure fairness for all members, retaining prevailing wage requirements, and enacting safety precautions for laborers that still exist today; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his years at Local 1092, Charles held several titles including Secretary-Treasurer, Business Manager, and, most recently, President; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Charles became Assistant Business Manager of Chicago Laborers' District Council, which represents more than 20,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), and participated in contract negotiations with private sector contractors during the longest laborers' strike in District Council history; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, Charles took the lead in establishing the Chicago Laborers' District Council Charitable Foundation, which has donated over \$2,000,000 to charitable organizations such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, Misericordia, Hope Children's Hospital, and Special Olympics Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Charles became Secretary-Treasurer of the Laborers' District Council in 2010, and continued to help negotiate and enforce contracts as both an officer of LIUNA and as President of Local 1092; and

WHEREAS, Charles was instrumental in securing the first apprenticeship program for the City to train new construction laborers hired by the Department of Water Management, helping over 400 members of Local 1092 and providing many women and people of color a pathway to the middle class; and

WHEREAS, Because of Charles' leadership, construction laborer has become one of the most coveted positions in the City - during a recent hiring period, 5,006 people applied for 176 apprentice positions - and the position of laborer has turned from one of underpayment and exploitation to one that is recognized throughout the City for the tremendous work each laborer does to keep Chicago running; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his positions with the Laborers' District Council and Local 1092, Charles is a delegate to the Illinois AFL-CIO and Chicago Federation of Labor, trustee of the Laborers' Training Center, Co-Chair and Treasurer of the Laborers' District Council of Chicago Charitable Foundation, and a member of the Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET), the Great Lakes Regional Organizing Committee (GROC), the Welfare & Pension Fund, the Coalition of Unionized Public Employees (COUPE), the City of Chicago Laborers' Annuity and Benefit Fund, and the Ground Hog Club; and

WHEREAS, Charles not only supports his fellow union brothers and sisters, he also actively supports his community, having been involved for over 25 years with Misericordia Heart of Mercy Home, where he currently serves as a board member, and receiving the BUM of the Year Award in 2015, and the Pillar of Community Award in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Charles also supports the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, the Dawn Brancheau Foundation, and Special Olympics Chicago, where he volunteers his time raising funds for the thousands of athletes including by participating in the annual Polar Plunge; and

WHEREAS, Charles has taken special pride in watching individuals and their families succeed within City government and in the private sector, recognizing that advancing the institution of the union means advancing the lives of members and their families; and

WHEREAS, Charles' passion and drive will be sorely missed by the laborers he supported, and the City would like to recognize his prolific career and extend its gratitude for his lifetime of service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this twentieth day of July, 2022, do hereby congratulate Charles LoVerde on his retirement, and wish him well on his future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Charles LoVerde.