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**JOURNAL of the PROCEEDINGS
of the
CITY COUNCIL
of the
CITY of CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

Special Meeting--Wednesday, November 19, 1997

at 10:00 A. M.

(Council Chambers--City Hall--Chicago, Illinois)

OFFICIAL RECORD.

RICHARD M. DALEY
Mayor

JAMES J. LASKI
City Clerk

Attendance At Meeting.

Present -- The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, and Aldermen Granato, Haithcock, Tillman, Preckwinkle, Holt, Steele, Beavers, Dixon, Shaw, Buchanan, Frias, Olivo, Burke, Jones, Coleman, Peterson, Murphy, Troutman, Munoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Solis, Burnett, E. Smith, Burrell, Wojcik, Suarez, Gabinski, Mell, Austin, Colom, Banks, Giles, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Doherty, Natarus, Bernardini, Hansen, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Moore, Stone.

Absent -- Aldermen Rugai, Ocasio.

Call To Order.

On Wednesday, November 19, 1997 at 10:00 A.M., The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, called the City Council to order. The clerk called the roll of members and it was found that there were present at that time: Aldermen Granato, Haithcock, Tillman, Holt, Steele, Beavers, Dixon, Shaw, Buchanan, Frias, Olivo, Burke, Coleman, Peterson, Troutman, Munoz, Zalewski, Chandler, Solis, Burnett, E. Smith, Burrell, Wojcik, Suarez, Gabinski, Mell, Austin, Colom, Banks, Giles, Allen, Laurino, O'Connor, Doherty, Natarus, Hansen, Levar, Shiller, Schulter, M. Smith, Moore, Stone -- 42.

Quorum present.

Invocation.

Reverend Herbert B. Martin, Senior Pastor, Progressive Community Church, opened the meeting with prayer.

Placed On File -- CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING.

The following call for a special meeting was filed in the Office of the City Clerk on November 14, 1997 at 8:58 A.M.:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

November 13, 1997.

*Honorable James J. Laski
City Clerk
City Hall, Room 107
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602*

DEAR MR. LASKI -- I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Chicago, to be convened at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, November 19, 1997, in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, for the purpose of considering a resolution commemorating the tenth anniversary of the death of the late Mayor Harold Washington, and for no other purpose whatsoever.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) RICHARD M. DALEY,
Mayor.

TRIBUTE TO ENDURING ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEGACY
OF THE LATE MAYOR HAROLD WASHINGTON.

A proposed resolution reading as follows:

WHEREAS, Harold Washington, Mayor of the City of Chicago, departed this life on November 25, 1987; and

WHEREAS, November 25, 1997, will mark the tenth anniversary of Mayor Washington's death; and

WHEREAS, As Chicago's first African-American mayor, Harold Washington continues to hold a special place in the history of our city and in the hearts of its people; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was a native of Chicago, a graduate of Du Sable High School, Roosevelt University and Northwestern University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington's public service career included distinguished service as assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago, as a state representative, as a state senator and as a member of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was first elected mayor in 1983 and was reelected in 1987, and presided over many significant and lasting programs and achievements which contributed greatly to the vitality and success of our great city; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was dedicated to supporting organized labor: under his administration, collective bargaining rights were expanded to include most of the city's employees outside the police and fire departments; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was committed to creating economic opportunity for the disadvantaged: in 1985 he formalized the city's first comprehensive program to increase opportunities for minority-owned and women-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was committed to the vitality of Chicago's neighborhoods: in 1985 he achieved passage of a major bond issue to bring capital improvements to virtually every one of the city's neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington encouraged revitalization of the central business district: his administration began the rehabilitation of the historic Chicago Theater and instituted the North Loop redevelopment plan, and undertook construction of the new Central Public Library which now bears his name; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was a sound business manager of the city's finances: under his direction, the city's bond rating was improved to high investment grade; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was committed to open and ethical government: through executive orders he instituted a freedom of information policy and ethical guidelines for city employees, and also

attained passage of the City's first comprehensive ethics ordinance in order to improve confidence in municipal government; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was committed to equality for Chicagoans from all backgrounds: he created advisory councils to represent the particular interests and viewpoints of Latinos; Asians; Arabs; women; lesbian and gay people; immigrants and refugees; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was devoted to improving public education: he convened Chicago's first Education Summit and he initiated the concept of the local school councils; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington understood that major league sports is part of the prestige of a great city: he worked vigorously to keep the White Sox in Chicago, and no fan cheered more vigorously the division championships of the White Sox and Cubs or the Super Bowl victory of the Chicago Bears, all won during Mayor Washington's tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was and continues to be a revered role model for young people, and his status as Chicago's first African-American mayor continues to instill great pride in his person and in his accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington is not only known for his accomplishments as mayor, but he is also highly regarded and loved for his enthusiasm, love of life and great devotion to his beloved city; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Washington was justly renowned for his quick wit and humor, which he used to ease moments of tension and to guide diverse points of view toward consensus; and

WHEREAS, No one who knew or observed Harold Washington will forget the gusto and determination with which he approached his role as mayor; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Harold Washington will surely be fondly remembered as one of the great figures in the history of a great city; and

WHEREAS, It is only fitting that, on the tenth anniversary of his untimely death, the City Council pay tribute to Mayor Harold Washington and his accomplishments; 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 November, 1997, do hereby acknowledge and pay tribute to the enduring achievements and legacy of Mayor Harold Washington; and

Be It Further Resolved, That we call on all residents of the City of Chicago to join us in honoring the life and memory of Mayor Harold Washington.

On motion of Alderman Dixon, the foregoing proposed resolution was *Adopted* by a rising vote.

PRESENTATION OF MUSICAL SELECTIONS
BY CHICAGO CHILDREN'S CHOIR.

The Chicago Children's Choir, directed by Mr. William Chin and accompanied by pianist, Mr. Gary Geiger, performed the musical selections "Simple Gifts", as arranged by Aaron Copeland and "Lift Every Voice and Sing", written by James Weldon Johnson with music by Jaye R. Johnson.

SELECTED WORDS OF THE LATE MAYOR
HAROLD WASHINGTON.

Following a personal tribute to the late Mayor Harold Washington by Mr. Alton Miller, four students from Harold Washington Elementary School, Ms. Deshaia Moss, Ms. Danielle Johnson, Mr. Jonathan Reynolds and Mr. Bryan Roby, quoted from "We're Climbing A Great Mountain", a selection of words of the late Mayor Harold Washington arranged by Mr. Alton Miller.

TRIBUTES BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

Speaking from the Clerk's rostrum, Mr. Ramon Price, half-brother of the late Mayor Harold Washington, Mr. Lerone Bennett, Jr., Executive Editor of *Ebony* magazine, and The Honorable Jesus G. Garcia, Illinois Senator from the First District, shared their personal memories of the life and accomplishments of the late Mayor Harold Washington.

At this point in the proceedings, expressions of sorrow and words of remembrance about the late Mayor Harold Washington were shared by the following members of the City Council:

Alderman Tillman
(3rd Ward)

Alderman Holt
(5th Ward)

Alderman Beavers
(7th Ward)

Alderman Dixon
(8th Ward)

Alderman Shaw
(9th Ward)

Alderman Coleman
(16th Ward)

Alderman Troutman
(20th Ward)

Alderman E. Smith
(28th Ward)

Alderman Burrell
(29th Ward)

Alderman Giles
(37th Ward)

Alderman Natarus
(42nd Ward)

Alderman Hansen
(44th Ward)

Alderman Shiller
(46th Ward)

Alderman M. Smith
(48th Ward)

REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE RICHARD M. DALEY, MAYOR.

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, delivered the following remarks:

Ten years ago, almost to the day, Chicagoans lined up outside this building by the tens of thousands to pay their respects to a mayor they loved.

Harold Washington had touched them all, and they waited deep into the night to say their good-byes.

A few days later, as his funeral procession moved slowly through the streets of his city, hundreds of thousands more filled the streets in a sign of respect and loss.

For whether you knew Harold Washington as a colleague or constituent, as an ally or opponent, he made a deep and lasting impression.

And today, we are here to honor Mayor Washington for the great contributions he made to Chicago.

Like the city he served so long and so faithfully, Harold Washington was a mixture of warmth, strength and determination.

He brought to politics and to public life an obvious joy.

He loved this city, its people and neighborhoods, and that enthusiasm was clear for all to see.

Whether he was speaking at a podium or shaking hands on the street, his energy was electric, and everywhere he went, people responded as if he were someone they knew personally and well.

But if Harold Washington's wit and warmth earned him the affection of the people of Chicago, his determination won their respect.

Harold Washington was never one to back down from a fight. I knew him as an ally in Springfield, where we fought side-by-side on issues of importance to our city and the families who live here.

And, yes, I knew him as a formidable opponent in a campaign, in which he challenged the odds to win a historic victory and went on to enact important reforms that will never be undone.

Harold Washington will be remembered as a man who broke down barriers, and opened wider the doors of opportunity for all our citizens.

As mayor, he fought for a program to ensure greater participation by minority-owned and female-owned businesses in city contracting. Since then, we have strengthened that program and fortified it against legal challenges.

Mayor Washington fought to make the city's work force better reflect the diverse population it serves. And that commitment we continue today.

It's good for Chicago. It's the right thing to do.

And I can think of no greater tribute to Mayor Washington on this day, when such programs are under assault, than to pledge myself to their continuation and redouble our efforts to build a city government that is open to all.

As I think back to that chilly day ten years ago when Harold Washington was laid to rest, I recall the countless, grieving faces along the route of the funeral procession.

They were black and white; Hispanic and Asian; rich and poor; old and young. Every community mourned.

All of Chicago joined hands that day in a spontaneous display of unity and shared sense of loss.

Today, let us gratefully acknowledge that we are a better and stronger city for the things Mayor Washington did.

And let us honor his memory by striving each day to fulfill his dream, and ours, of a city that works for everyone.

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL ETCHING TO FAMILY OF THE LATE MAYOR HAROLD WASHINGTON.

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor, invited to the Mayor's rostrum the following family members and friend of the late Mayor Washington, together with the artist who created the city's memorial etching: Mr. Ramon Price, half-brother; Mrs. Elaine Lake, sister; Ms. Dawn Lake, niece; Ms. Susan Price, niece; Mr. Mark Scott, nephew; Ms. Dolores Woods, friend; and Mr. Pablo DeLeon, artist.

On behalf of the people of Chicago, Mayor Daley then presented to the Washington family a glass etching of The Honorable Harold Washington, designed by Mr. Pablo DeLeon, set in a base of granite that had been removed from City Hall.

POETRY READING.

Ms. Gwendolyn Brooks, Illinois Poet Laureate, recited her poem "The Last Inauguration of Harold Washington" and, the poem she identified as the late Mayor's favorite, "We Real Cool".

CLOSING MUSICAL SELECTION.

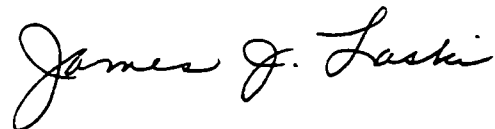
Under the musical direction of Mr. William Chin, accompanied by pianist Mr. Gary Geiger, the Chicago Children's Choir performed the musical selection "I'm Goin' Up A Yonder" by Walter Hawkins.

BENEDICTION.

Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman, Rabbi Emeritus, Emanuel Congregation, delivered the benediction.

Adjournment.

Thereupon, Alderman Dixon moved that the City Council do *Adjourn*. The motion *Prevailed* and the City Council *Stood Adjourned*.



JAMES J. LASKI,
City Clerk.

57742

JOURNAL--CITY COUNCIL--CHICAGO

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