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**MEMORIAL
COPY**



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

Special Meeting -- Tuesday, March 10, 2015

at 10:00 A.M.

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

OFFICIAL RECORD.

RAHM EMANUEL
Mayor

SUSANA A. MENDOZA
City Clerk

3/10/2015

SPECIAL MEETING

102791

Attendance At Meeting.

Present -- The Honorable Rahm Emanuel, Mayor, and Aldermen Fioretti, Dowell, Burns, Hairston, Sawyer, Holmes, Harris, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Cárdenas, Quinn, Burke, Thomas, Lane, O'Shea, Cochran, Brookins, Muñoz, Zalewski, Maldonado, Burnett, Ervin, Graham, Reboyras, Suarez, Waguespack, Mell, Austin, Colón, Sposato, Mitts, Cullerton, Laurino, P. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, Reilly, Smith, Tunney, Arena, Cappleman, Pawar, Osterman, Silverstein.

Absent -- Aldermen Moreno, Foulkes, Chandler, Solis, Moore.

Call To Order.

On Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 10:20 A.M. (the hour appointed for the meeting was 10:00 A.M.), the Honorable Rahm Emanuel, Mayor, called the City Council to order. The Honorable Susana A. Mendoza, City Clerk, called the roll of members and it was found that there were present at that time: Aldermen Fioretti, Dowell, Burns, Hairston, Sawyer, Holmes, Harris, Beale, Pope, Balcer, Cárdenas, Quinn, Burke, Thomas, Lane, O'Shea, Cochran, Brookins, Muñoz, Zalewski, Maldonado, Burnett, Ervin, Graham, Reboyras, Suarez, Waguespack, Mell, Austin, Colón, Sposato, Mitts, Cullerton, Laurino, P. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, Reilly, Smith, Tunney, Arena, Cappleman, Pawar, Osterman, Silverstein -- 44.

Quorum present.

Placed On File -- CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING.

[F2015-10]

The Honorable Susana A. Mendoza, City Clerk, informed the City Council that the following call for a special meeting was filed in her office on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 3:08 P.M.:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

March 4, 2015.

*Honorable Susana A. Mendoza
City Clerk
City Hall, Room 107
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602*

DEAR MS. MENDOZA -- I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Chicago, to be convened at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 in the City Council Chamber in City Hall, for the sole purpose of honoring the life and memory of Alderman JoAnn Thompson.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) RAHM EMANUEL,
Mayor.

OPENING MUSICAL SELECTION.

Members of the Peculiar People Choir performed the opening musical selection "Total Praise".

Pledge Of Allegiance.

Alderman Balcer lead the City Council and assembled guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

3/10/2015

SPECIAL MEETING

102793

Invocation.

Apostle Dr. Kevin E. Dean of New Vision of Faith Ministries opened the meeting with prayer.

MUSICAL SELECTION.

Members of the Peculiar People Choir performed the musical selection "How Great Is Thy Faithfulness".

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR.

Rules Suspended -- RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
THE HONORABLE JO ANN THOMPSON,
ALDERMAN OF THE 16TH WARD.

[R2015-100]

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel, Mayor, presented the following communication:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

March 10, 2015.

To the Honorable, The City Council of the City of Chicago:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- I transmit herewith, together with the members of the City Council, a resolution honoring the life and memory of our dear friend and colleague JoAnn Thompson.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) RAHM EMANUEL,
Mayor.

The following is said proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, With profound sadness and an overwhelming sense of loss, the members of this chamber mourn the death, on February 9, 2015, at age 58, of our friend and colleague Alderman JoAnn Thompson. Affectionately known as "Jo" by her family and close friends, Alderman Thompson served the people of the 16th Ward, comprising the Englewood and Gage Park neighborhoods, with impeccable dignity and honor; and

WHEREAS, Born on September 18, 1956, Alderman Thompson was raised on the South Side of Chicago. An intelligent and gifted person, who readily took on difficult assignments, Alderman Thompson served as a lieutenant in the Cook County Department of Corrections prior to becoming an alderman; and

WHEREAS, A strong and resilient woman, Alderman Thompson was not a stranger to hardship. She overcame a period of homelessness, rebounded from the death of her beloved husband in 1992, and triumphed in a bout with alcoholism following that tragic loss. Alderman Thompson was a conqueror, crediting God and a social worker at the Chicago Christian Industrial League with helping her to turn her life around. She took justifiable pride in her recovery, telling her constituents: "I represent hope"; and

WHEREAS, First elected to the Chicago City Council on April 17, 2007, and re-elected on April 5, 2011, Alderman Thompson was a tireless advocate for her community. She sponsored 437 pieces of legislation, and she was instrumental in enacting legislation to ban the sale of flavored tobacco and synthetic marijuana in Chicago. An exceptional leader, Alderman Thompson served as the vice chair of the City Council Committee on License and Consumer Protection, as an active member of the Black Caucus, and a Committeeman of the 16th Ward; and

WHEREAS, A public servant par excellence, who cared deeply about children, Alderman Thompson understood that the prosperity of a community is expressed in the advancement of its people. Committed to bringing jobs, economic prosperity and educational opportunities to the 16th Ward, Alderman Thompson attracted a Whole Foods grocery store to the corner of Halsted Street and 63rd Street in Englewood, lobbied federal and state legislators to provide capital improvement funding for all schools and parks in the 16th Ward, and secured a \$3.5 Million

appropriation for a new lunchroom, play lot, restored gymnasium, green space and teachers' parking lot at Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Thompson was a fierce advocate for Chicago's most vulnerable citizens. She cared deeply about the elderly veterans, the chronically homeless, the disabled and the sick. Thanks to her efforts, the Bethel Terrace Senior Apartments complex, which provides affordable, independent housing for senior citizens, was expanded and three additional residence complexes for senior citizens were built in the 16th Ward; Hope Manor II, one of the first gender-specific housing complexes for veterans in the nation and the first veterans' housing complex in the 16th Ward, was constructed; Mercy Housing Englewood, a \$17 Million, 99-unit, supportive housing development for the chronically homeless and disabled, opened its doors; and the Access Health Medical Campus, which includes a first-of-its-kind-in-Illinois WIC facility and research center, was built at 52nd Street and Ashland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, A firm believer in neighborhood beautification and quality of life, Alderman Thompson co-sponsored six TIF/NIP programs, totaling more than \$5 Million, that awarded grants to more than 300 neighborhood residents for sorely needed repairs to their property; co-sponsored the innovative "Lots of Change" program, which brought 2,100 college students from across the County to the 16th Ward to assist in the clean-up of vacant lots; and established the first-ever 16th Ward Musical Festival and the award-winning 16th Ward Track and Field Team; and

WHEREAS, Widely admired for her personal courage, leadership and grace, Alderman JoAnn Thompson will always be remembered for her caring spirit and genuine smile, and as an exemplary public servant with an abiding affection for the people of Chicago. Her legacy of service, love and compassion survives in the beautiful family she left behind; and

WHEREAS, Alderman JoAnn Thompson is survived by her three children, Joseph, Melanie and Latrece; and by her five grandchildren, DeVon, Ernest, Jerrika, Miayah, and Jessica; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 10th day of March 2015, do hereby honor the life and memory of our dear friend and colleague Alderman JoAnn Thompson and extended our heartfelt condolences to her family; and

Be It Further Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Alderman JoAnn Thompson as a sign of our sympathy and respect.

Alderman Burke moved to *Suspend the Rules Temporarily* to permit immediate consideration of and action upon the foregoing proposed resolution. The motion *Prevailed*.

On motion of Alderman Burke, seconded by Aldermen Fioretti, Dowell, Hairston, Holmes, Harris, Pope, Balcer, Thomas, Lane, Brookins, Burnett, Graham, Suarez, Austin, Mitts and Cullerton, the foregoing proposed resolution was *Adopted* by a rising vote.

EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCES BY
THE HONORABLE RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR.

First, to JoAnn's family, I want to say thank you. We marveled, day-in and day-out, at the grace and courage she displayed during these past years in service to the city we all love.

Ever fighting, never flagging, she was always the same JoAnn to the end. That fortitude came from you, her family. So, thank you for sharing her with us.

She was full of surprises -- tough and tender; an uncommon friend who was blessed with the common touch. That's who she was.

Like most goodbyes, parting with JoAnn means a parting within our own hearts. We are grateful for her life, even as we are grieving at her passing.

We gained so greatly from having her with us so we feel her loss more deeply.

We witnessed all that she had already done for others and we wonder at all the great work she may yet have done.

Now it is up to us to carry on that work, to honor her memory by taking up her mission: -- To open more doors of opportunity for the children and families of Englewood and to work together as one city to build one future as one Chicago.

While this recognition from her colleagues is important and meaningful, if you want to see her true monument -- go to Englewood and see the change that is happening there because of her work.

Take the new Whole Foods for example. The reason JoAnn fought so hard for that grocery store is so it would serve as a beacon of hope and a sign that Englewood will no longer be passed over.

JoAnn viewed that new Whole Foods as something more than just the sum of its parts. It represented many threads of her vision for a neighborhood that is coming back.

Without her, it would not have been possible. Because of her, today in Englewood, anything seems possible.

It is a fitting tribute to her because JoAnn's life was marked by hard work and eternal hope, of overcoming long odds and high obstacles. That was her story. That is Englewood's story. And that is the Chicago story.

Thank you JoAnn and God bless.

At this point of the proceedings, the Honorable Rahm Emanuel, Mayor, left the rostrum and strode to the Commissioner's gallery where he presented parchment copies of the memorial resolution to the family of Alderman JoAnn Thompson.

Alderman Burke requested leave of the body to permit publication of written remarks by members of the City Council in the *Journal of the Proceedings of the City Council of the City of Chicago*. Leave was granted.

WRITTEN MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE.

Good morning Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chicago City Council.

Mother Teresa once said, "Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is a beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realize it. Life is a challenge, meet it. Life is a duty, complete it. Life is a game, play it. Life is a promise, fulfill it. Life is sorrow, overcome it. Life is a song, sing it. Life is a struggle, accept it. Life is a tragedy, confront it. Life is an adventure, dare it. Life is luck, make it. Life is life, fight for it."

Although we are saddened to mourn the loss of our colleague, we are indeed fortunate to be able to celebrate the life of Alderman JoAnn Thompson. She was indeed a fighter, she overcame incredible odds and will be deeply missed.

One's success in life is often measured by its ending. But to truly understand a person's success, one must know their beginnings -- where they came from and what they have been through. As we reflect upon where Alderman Thompson began in life and all she accomplished, I suppose Alderman Thompson is one of the most successful people we have had the pleasure of knowing and working with.

The story of JoAnn Thompson is, in a way, much like the story of Chicago. A success story entirely of her own making. Once broken and down on her luck, she would not be deterred. Setbacks and hard times did not stand in her way -- she was an incredible force of nature -- someone to be reckoned with. Failure would not have the final say. She was the kind of person who Studs Terkel would love to have interviewed and the kind of Chicagoan that Nelson Algren would have written about. Alderman Thompson was the tough street-savvy woman from Chicago who personified the dream of this City. She was the leader whose past helped define what a great success she would become. It was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said,

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable . . . every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals".

Those words remind me of Alderman Thompson. Because of her own struggles, she was inspired to work tirelessly for her community. Because of her setbacks she was guided by a sense of compassion and desire to help. And for that, the City of Chicago and all of the residents of the 16th Ward are much better off.

May God give her now, the reward of everlasting peace.

EDWARD M. BURKE
Alderman, 14th Ward.

"A friend is a present from God." Friendship is the gift that becomes a present to both people involved. The Relationship doesn't really work unless both people are willing to accept kindness and weaknesses. Thank you, JoAnn for letting me be your friend.

Some friends are special because they help you out of big trouble, others forgive you when you've done some thoughtless things. Some friends know how to celebrate the good times with you. Others know just the right words when you're feeling down. Some friends always make you laugh when they turn on their charming wit. Some friends give you an extra push when you need it, others hold you back from doing things you shouldn't do. Some friends teach you a lot of things, others love to learn from you and make you feel special for your wisdom. Some friends make you laugh, some make you think but, they will never make you cry. However, they will cry with you and for you.

As my friend, you've never tried to tell me what to do but, you've patiently been around to pick up the slack. You've supplied energy, know-how, and emotional strength when mines have failed. My friend, you have known my inner most thoughts, my sometimes not so loving disposition, my selfishness, and yes my fears. Yet, you still remained my friend. That speaks quality about the kind of patient and faith you have had in me as my friend.

My friend, thank you for praying, sharing, listening, and being my friend through the rough times. Thank you for being my brother when I need a brother, a father when I needed a father, an uncle when I needed an uncle but, most of all thank you for the love of a Friend.

The Bible states: "Am I my Brother's Keeper." I'm Sure it meant Sister's as well. JoAnn You Have Been My Keeper.

3/10/2015

SPECIAL MEETING

102799

JoAnn my friend, you were Uniquely Special. You have earned my; Admiration, Love, Respect, Appreciation, Forgiveness, and Understanding, all qualities of a true friend, and you were all of these special qualities wrapped into one being. You were truly a Gift from God. I Love You JoAnn!

CARRIE M. AUSTIN
Alderman, 34th Ward.

CLOSING MUSICAL SELECTION.

Members of the Peculiar People Choir performed the closing musical selection "Oh Happy Day".

BENEDICTION.

Apostle Dr. Kevin E. Dean of New Vision of Faith Ministries delivered the benediction.

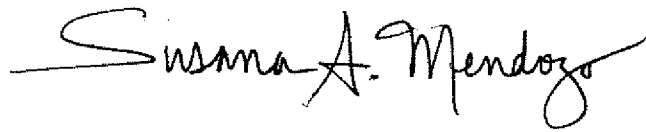
PRESENCE OF VISITORS NOTED.

The following visitors were in attendance and acknowledged by the City Council and assembled guests:

family members and friends of the late Honorable JoAnn Thompson, children: Joseph Thompson, Melanie Thompson, Latrece Thompson; grandchildren: DeVon Carlo, Jerrick Gines, Miayah Carlo, Clementeen Hunt, Kenny Mary Field and Marlene Mayfield; aldermanic staff: Angelica Assas, Carla Rogers, Doris Simmons, Nathan Wilson and Debbie Blair; friends: Devon Carlo, Bryan Carlo, Lashaun Scott, Takesha Jones, Shirley Sherley, Pastor Sir Antonio Love, Adrian Love, Walonza Lee, Berry Lee, Wilburn Green, Margaret Bryant.

Adjournment.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susana A. Mendoza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susana" and last name "Mendoza" clearly legible, and a middle initial "A.".

SUSANA A. MENDOZA,
City Clerk.

APPENDIX A

LEGISLATIVE INDEX

**JOURNAL of the PROCEEDINGS
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City Council

Tributes

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Date: 3/10/2015

CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE INDEX

1

CITY COUNCIL

Special Meetings

March 10, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.

Emanuel (Mayor)

F2015-10

Filed [C.J.p. 102791]

TRIBUTES

Thompson, JoAnn (Hon.)

Alderman, 16th Ward

Emanuel (Mayor), and Others

R2015-100

Adopted [C.J.p. 102793]