RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Amisha Patel was born on May 30, 1975, in Chicago, Illinois, to Indian immigrant parents Kusum Patel and Arvind Patel; and

WHEREAS, Amisha Patel dedicated her life to organizing and empowering working people, immigrants, women, young people, and communities of color through grassroots activism, coalition building, political education, and movement leadership; and

WHEREAS, Amisha Patel served for six years as Community Coordinator for SEIU Local 73 in Chicago, where she organized hospital employees and Head Start workers into a union and worked alongside community leaders to oppose school closures and defend public education; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Amisha Patel became Executive Director of Grassroots Collaborative, a community-labor coalition uniting organizations across Chicago to fight for fully funded public education, affordable housing, economic justice, and critical public services, and during her fifteen years of leadership she strengthened the organization's impact and deepened its commitment to racial and economic justice; and

WHEREAS, Amisha Patel co-founded United Working Families, an independent political organization committed to building multiracial political power and electing progressive leaders at the local, state, and national levels, helping transform the landscape of Chicago politics and supporting leaders including Congresswoman Delia Ramirez and Mayor Brandon Johnson; and

WHEREAS, following the historic election of Mayor Brandon Johnson in 2023, Amisha Patel served as a senior advisor to the Mayor-Elect's transition committee, helping shape a vision for a more equitable and inclusive City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Amisha Patel mentored and trained thousands of organizers, workers, and residents on issues of race, class, gender, labor rights, democracy, and public investment, while advocating for higher wages, equitable development, and stronger neighborhood communities throughout Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Amisha Patel also contributed her voice and insight through published writings and commentary in outlets including *Crain's Chicago Business*, *In These Times*, *Bill Moyers*, and the *Chicago Sun-Times*; and

WHEREAS, Amisha Patel met her wife, Neena Hemmady, through the South and West Asian LGBTQ women-focused organization Khuli Zaban, and they were married at the Chicago Teachers Union Jackie Vaughn Hall in August 2019 and parented two children together; and

WHEREAS, Amisha Patel lived a life grounded in love, justice, creativity, healing, and community, and her brilliance, generosity, and unwavering commitment to social transformation touched countless lives and helped redefine what solidarity and people-powered leadership could look like in the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Amisha Patel passed away at her home on April 24, 2026, surrounded by loved ones, following a courageous nine-year battle with cancer; and

WHEREAS, Amisha Patel is survived by her wife, Neena Hemmady; her mother, Kusum Patel; her children, Ayush Hemmady-Wright and Varsha Hemmady-Wright; her brothers, Nitin Hemmady (Weiwen) and Amit Patel (Vaishali); her niblings, Vishal Patel, Meridith Embry, Sahil Patel, and Anishi Patel; and countless chosen family members, colleagues, comrades, and friends; and she was preceded in death by her father, Arvind Patel; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 20th day of May, 2026, do hereby honor the life, legacy, and extraordinary contributions of Amisha Patel, whose vision, compassion, and leadership helped shape a more just, equitable, and democratic City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family, friends, colleagues, and loved ones of Amisha Patel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Amisha Patel as a symbol of the City of Chicago's respect, gratitude, and enduring admiration.