

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF GERALD MCLAUGHLIN

WHEREAS, The Honorable Gerald M. "Gerry" McLaughlin, a dedicated public servant and former 45th Ward Alderman, passed away on July 16, 2024, at the age of 79; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago has been notified of Gerry's passing by the Honorable Brian Hopkins, Alderman of the 2nd Ward; and

WHEREAS, Gerry was the beloved son of Irish immigrants from County Mayo, Eleanore and John McLaughlin, who instilled in him a deep sense of heritage and hard work; and

WHEREAS, Gerry faced the adversity of losing his father at the young age of five, developing a profound bond with his siblings, John and Mary, who became a second mother to him; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in Lincoln Square, Gerry attended St. Matthias Grade School and St. George High School, before earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from Lewis University, maintaining lifelong friendships along the way; and

WHEREAS, Gerry proudly served his country in the US Army from 1963-65, attaining distinction as a Nike Missile Sharpshooter during his service in Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, After joining the Chicago Police Department in 1970, Gerry served in various assignments including Wood Street, Community Services, Operational Services, Office of the Superintendent, Austin, Foster, Town Hall, O'Hare Airport, Internal Affairs, and Auditing; and

WHEREAS, Gerry also provided bodyguard services to Mayor Jane Byrne during her campaign and received numerous departmental commendations for his exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, During 1983-87 term, Gerry served as Alderman of the 45th Ward, where he facilitated the establishment of the Irish American Heritage Center, promoted minority employment in public works, and leaving a lasting impact on the City's public safety and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, As Chairman of the Landmarks and Preservation Committee, Gerry played a key role in preserving the Chicago Theatre, and as Vice-Chair of the Police and Fire Committee, Gerry championed efforts to maintain maximum personnel strength and increase the number of City ambulances; and

WHEREAS, After his service as Alderman came to an end, Gerry returned to the Police Department, where he was later promoted to Sergeant in 1990, before retiring in 2001; but even after his retirement, Gerry continued his service to law enforcement as the Manager of Professional Standards for the Schaumburg Police Department; and

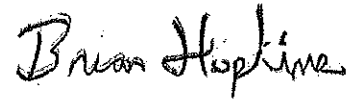
WHEREAS, Above all, Gerry cherished his role as a devoted husband to Beverly Weaver McLaughlin, loving father to Megan (Christopher) McLaughlin Lambert, and proud grandfather to George Anthony Lambert, finding joy in family, travel, and community activities; and

WHEREAS, Through his daughter Megan, Gerry became involved in the world of Irish dance and music and an avid tailgater at Notre Dame, and came to love her Trinity Academy and college friends as his own cherished friends; and

WHEREAS, Gerry McLaughlin's legacy of distinguished public service and compassion will forever be remembered by his family, friends, and the City of Chicago; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby honor and celebrate the life and achievements of the Honorable Gerald M. "Gerry" McLaughlin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Gerry McLaughlin as a token of our deepest sympathy and heartfelt appreciation for his invaluable contributions to the City of Chicago.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Hopkins".

BRIAN HOPKINS
Alderman, 2nd Ward