RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRADER TODD'S

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of the 25th Anniversary of Trader Todd's by the Honorable Bennett Lawson, Alderman of the 44th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Trader Todd's, founded by Todd Hyatt and Virginia Carstarphen and now co-owned by William Gold and Neil Lesneski, is a beloved tropical-themed karaoke bar in Lakeview celebrating 25 years of service to the neighborhood and surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, Todd Hyatt opened his first Chicago bar in the late 1990s on Dearborn, but moved up to the Lakeview neighborhood and opened what is now Trader Todd's; and

WHEREAS, Todd and Virginia Hyatt, a dedicated husband-and-wife team, opened Trader Todd's in 2001 with the help of their good friend and actor, the late Don "Ogre" Gibb; and

WHEREAS, Todd and Virginia's first vacation together was to Key West, Florida, where they fell in love with the tropical oasis and wanted to bring a little bit of Key West to Chicago, giving inspiration for the paradise theme of Trader Todd's; and

WHEREAS, A key feature of Trader Todd's tropical theme is the boat in the back room that the bar was built around, a boat that belonged to Todd's best friend Philip and is now dedicated to his memory; and

WHEREAS, Trader Todd's is an authentic pan-tropical themed restaurant that offers great times through pan-tropical food, festive tiki drinks, and karaoke; and

WHEREAS, Trader Todd's is famous for their karaoke, encouraging people of all skill levels to participate, including longtime Chicago Bull Jimmy Butler who took the karaoke stage in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Trader Todd's is a beloved staple of the Lakeview East neighborhood and Chicago community, providing a vacation without leaving Chicago and creating a foundation for lifelong memories, friendships, and fun; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 15th day of July 2026, do hereby congratulate Trader Todd's on 25 years of building community and memories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Todd Hyatt, Virginia Carstarphen, William Gold, and Neil Lesenski as a token of our respect and sincere congratulations on this milestone.

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BENNETT R. LAWSON
Alderman - 44th Ward