

Tribute to the late Steve Albini

WHEREAS, Steve Albini moved to Chicago to attend Northwestern University in the early 1980s and never left; and

WHEREAS, Steve was a primary figure in the burgeoning Chicago punk rock music scene from its inception, eventually becoming (if unintentionally) an eternally important, worldwide representative of the global underground/experimental rock music scene; and

WHEREAS, starting with his home recording studio on North Francisco Ave, eventually at his custom-built and self-financed Chicago recording studio Electrical Audio, located at 2621 W. Belmont in Chicago's Avondale neighborhood, and also at a dizzying variety of other studios around the world, Steve helped literally thousands of bands and other musicians realize their music as recorded media, by providing world-class audio engineering talent at journeyman prices to essentially anyone who asked; and

WHEREAS, countless other recording studios around the world have been built or improved upon by using Steve's insight into layout, materials, electrical concerns, equipment, HVAC, flooring, acoustics, and so forth, all provided by Steve, as a top expert in his field, completely gratis and in sometimes excruciating detail; and

WHEREAS, still no one else in the history of the planet has ever been able to record a drum kit like that; and

WHEREAS, Steve and his wife Heather Whinna started answering random "letters to Santa" over twenty years ago and have delivered presents and large amounts of cash to desperately needy residents of Chicago every single Christmas Day since, most recently as part of Heather's 501(c)(3) Poverty Alleviation Charities and their "Letters to Santa" charity effort, redistributing over a million dollars in the process; and

WHEREAS, Steve was a stalwart, irrationally generous friend to many over decades and stood on principle steadfastly, at great expense and inconvenience to himself, during a four-decade career as a musician and recording engineer in (or on the fringes of) the often-rapacious "music industry"; and

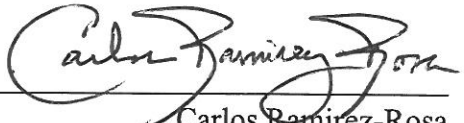
WHEREAS, the great city of Chicago is a worse place without him as surely as it was a better place with him in it, as is/was the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, honoring the late Steve Albini would serve as a lasting reminder to his incredible expertise in his field, extreme generosity and holiday spirit, great influence on the advancement

of the state of sound recording, and overwhelming contributions to the arts in Chicago and the rest of the world;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago do hereby honor the life and legacy of Steve Albini and honor him for his contributions to the music and recording industry in Chicago and worldwide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Heather Whinna, Steve Albini's beloved wife.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carlos Ramirez-Rosa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Carlos Ramirez-Rosa
Alderman, 35th Ward