

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr., a monumental figure whose life and legacy are inextricably woven into the fabric of the City of Chicago and the global struggle for civil rights, on February 17, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Jackson arrived in Chicago in 1964 as a student at the Chicago Theological Seminary and quickly became a protégé of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., eventually leading the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's (SCLC) Operation Breadbasket in Chicago, which secured thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic investment for the Black community; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 4, 1968, Rev. Jackson became a witness to history, standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel alongside Dr. King; after that historic and fateful night, Rev. Jackson spent the subsequent six decades carrying the torch of justice through the founding of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, headquartered on Chicago's South Side; and

**WHEREAS**, Kennedy-King College, located in Englewood, the heart of the 16th Ward, was named in 1969 to honor the dual legacies of Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. following their tragic assassinations; and

**WHEREAS**, for over 60 years, Rev. Jackson was a tireless advocate for the Englewood community and a frequent presence at Kennedy-King College, championing the "I Am Somebody" spirit and fighting for the educational resources and economic empowerment of its students; and

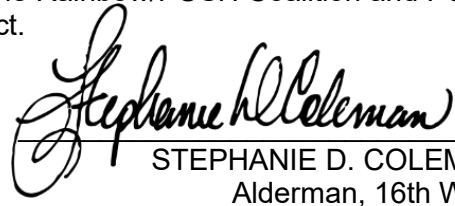
**WHEREAS**, the addition of Rev. Jackson's name to this institution creates a historic "Civil Rights Trinity," uniting the three most influential figures of that era – the visionary, the orator, and the organizer – into a single beacon of educational excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, Alderman Stephanie D. Coleman and the residents of the 16th Ward wish to ensure that future generations of Chicagoans understand that the movement for equality did not end in 1968 but was sustained by the grit and grace of a Chicagoan who dedicated 60 years to the "Education of the Soul"; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 18th day of March 2026, do hereby express our support for the renaming of "Kennedy-King College" to "Kennedy-King-Jackson College"; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chicago City Council formally requests the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 508 to take all necessary administrative and legal actions to effectuate this name change in honor of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr.; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr. and the leadership of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and PUSH Excel as a token of the City's eternal gratitude and respect.

  
STEPHANIE D. COLEMAN  
Alderman, 16th Ward