

Resolution Recognizing the Lifelong Leadership and Community Service of Magdalena “Maggie” Martinez

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago takes great pride in recognizing residents whose lifelong commitment to public service, youth advocacy, and community empowerment has uplifted neighborhoods and created lasting positive change; and

WHEREAS, Magdalena “Maggie” Martinez was born on March 14, 1945, in Monterrey, Mexico to David Martinez and Maria Luisa Solis, the eldest of five siblings: Francisco Colon, Alex Colon, Roberto Colon, Linda Colon, and Susanna Colon; and

WHEREAS, in June of 1961, Maggie married Mario Martinez of Las Piedras, Puerto Rico, and together they built a loving family of four children: Mario, Victor, Carmen Iris, and David, as well as a proud lineage of six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Maggie began her distinguished career in public service in the early 1970s as a School Community Representative with Chicago Public Schools, impacting generations of students during her 28-year tenure at schools including James Russell Lowell Elementary, Roberto Clemente High School, Frederic Chopin Elementary, and Hans Christian Andersen Elementary; and

WHEREAS, Maggie’s faith and commitment to youth guided her work as a catechism teacher at Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, where she taught children preparing for their First Holy Communion for 30 years, while also serving as a Parish Council member and Eucharistic Minister; and

WHEREAS, through her advocacy with Neighborhood Housing Services in the 1980s, Maggie began championing affordable housing and community revitalization, ensuring the voices of Humboldt Park residents were heard; and

WHEREAS, Maggie further demonstrated her leadership by joining Youth Service Project in 1986, organizing block clubs and joining the Block Club Federation in 1989. In 2000, she helped incorporate the Block Club Federation as a nonprofit organization, strengthening its capacity to promote safety and unity in Humboldt Park and Hermosa; and

WHEREAS, committed to providing free, high-quality out-of-school opportunities, Maggie founded the Youth Innovative Program: Environmental Education in 2004, a full-day summer camp serving over 125 youth each season, fostering environmental awareness and community pride; and

WHEREAS, to support teen engagement and leadership development, Maggie worked with local youth to establish Youth Making A Difference, creating safe, youth-led initiatives and activities; and

WHEREAS, since 1990, Maggie has been a dedicated volunteer with the Chicago Police Department, playing a pivotal role in the founding of the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy

(CAPS) and serving as a BEAT facilitator, District Advisory Council chair, and court advocate; and

WHEREAS, Maggie's advocacy extended to vital community partners including Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation, Hispanic Housing Development Corporation, Near Northwest Neighborhood Network, and the DePaul University Egan Center, where she collaborated to improve housing, safety, and access to services; and

WHEREAS, Maggie was instrumental in the multi-year community campaign that secured the rebuilding of the Humboldt Park Library following its destruction on Christmas Day in 1989, advocating alongside residents until the new library opened in 1995; and

WHEREAS, for 35 years, Maggie has served on the organizing committee for the annual Humboldt Park Earth Day Community Clean-Up, championing environmental justice, park improvements, and tree planting initiatives; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to creating green spaces is evident through decades of leadership, from founding the school garden at Andersen Elementary in 1986 to supporting projects like the Lowell Lion's Garden, Park 514, and Little Cubs Field Garden; and

WHEREAS, continuing her commitment to Chicago Public Schools, Maggie has served as an elected Community Representative on the Local School Council at James Russell Lowell Elementary School for over a decade, advocating for students and families; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Mayor Brandon Johnson and the members of the Chicago City Council, do hereby recognize and honor Magdalena "Maggie" Martinez for her decades of contributions to Chicago's youth, advocacy, and community leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Magdalena "Maggie" Martinez as a token of our city's deep appreciation and respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JF' with a stylized flourish.

Jessie Fuentes
Alderpersion, 26th Ward