

**A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MIKE DITKA**

**WHEREAS,** The City of Chicago and the entire football world lost a true titan, an iconic leader, and a legendary figure with the passing of Michael Keller "Iron Mike" Ditka on October 9, 2026, at the age of 86; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in Carnegie, Pennsylvania, in 1939, Mike Ditka brought a relentless, blue-collar toughness and grit to Chicago, personifying the very spirit, work ethic, and identity of our great city; and

**WHEREAS,** Mike Ditka was selected fifth overall by the Chicago Bears in the 1961 NFL Draft, immediately revolutionizing the tight end position by becoming the first rookie at his position to surpass 1,000 receiving yards, a phenomenal achievement that earned him NFL Rookie of the Year honors and five consecutive Pro Bowl selections; and

**WHEREAS,** As a star player, Mike Ditka was a vital driving force on the field for the Chicago Bears' 1963 NFL Championship team, capturing the hearts of Chicagoans with his fiery determination and refusal to back down; and

**WHEREAS,** After a stellar 12-year playing career that culminated in a Super Bowl VI victory with the Dallas Cowboys, Mike Ditka returned to his true home in 1982 when he was named the Head Coach of the Chicago Bears; and

**WHEREAS,** As "Da Coach," Mike Ditka engineered one of the most dominant eras in sports history, culminating in the historic 1985 season where he led the Bears to a 15-1 regular-season record and a spectacular 46-10 victory over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX, cementing that legendary squad as arguably the greatest team in football history; and

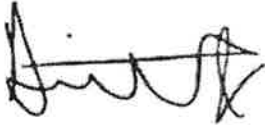
**WHEREAS,** Coach Ditka holds the rare distinction of being one of only two individuals in National Football League history to win a Super Bowl as a player, an assistant coach, and a head coach, and he was deservingly enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1988; and

**WHEREAS,** Beyond his staggering athletic achievements, Mike Ditka was a massive cultural icon whose larger-than-life personality, famous mustache, and signature aviator sunglasses became deeply embedded in Chicago's folklore and celebrated worldwide; and

**WHEREAS,** Mike Ditka was equally revered for his immense heart, fierce loyalty, and dedicated advocacy for his fellow players, using his voice on Capitol Hill to fight for improved health and disability benefits for retired NFL players who sacrificed their bodies for the game; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this 14th day of October, 2026, do hereby express our deepest condolences to the family, friends, former players, and millions of fans of Mike Ditka; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Ditka family as a formal token of our city's eternal gratitude, respect, and admiration for "Da Coach," whose indelible legacy will forever bear down on the City of Chicago.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gilbert Villegas', with a stylized, cursive script.

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GILBERT VILLEGAS  
Alderman, 36th Ward