Agreed Calendar
Chicago City Council Meeting
February 19, 2025

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Healthcare Alternative Systems (H.A.S.) was founded in 1974 by Antonio "Toni" Garcia to address the critical needs of individuals and families affected by substance use, mental health challenges, and social disparities in Chicago communities; and,

WHEREAS, Healthcare Alternative Systems has remained steadfast in its mission to empower individuals, families, and communities to improve their health and well-being by providing a comprehensive continuum of care that includes prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services; and,

WHEREAS, Healthcare Alternative Systems is instrumental in supporting residents in wards across the City of Chicago, including those represented by the Honorable Daniel La Spata, Alderman of the 1st Ward, the Honorable Raymond Lopez, Alderman of the 15th Ward, the Honorable Walter Burnett Jr., Alderman of the 27th Ward, the Honorable Felix Cardona, Alderman of the 31st Ward, the Honorable Jessie Fuentes, Alderwoman of the 26th Ward, the Honorable Scott Waguespack, Alderman of the 32nd Ward, and the Honorable Emma Mitts, Alderwoman of the 37th Ward; and,

WHEREAS, Healthcare Alternative Systems provides essential behavioral health and social services to individuals and families in the diverse communities of Back of the Yards, Brighton Park, Gage Park, West Englewood, Humboldt Park, Logan Square, West Town, Wicker Park, Bucktown, Ukrainian Village, East Village, Belmont Cragin, Hermosa, Avondale, Lakeview, Lincoln Park, Roscoe Village, West Lakeview, Austin, West Garfield Park, West Humboldt Park, Near West Side, West Loop, Fulton River District, River West, and Goose Island; and,

WHEREAS, In addition to its presence in Chicago, H.A.S. extends its services to the broader suburban communities of Broadview, Bellwood, Melrose Park, and Wheaton, Illinois, ensuring that individuals and families throughout the region have access to quality care and support; and,

WHEREAS, The vision of Healthcare Alternative Systems is to foster a society where individuals and families lead healthier, more fulfilling lives, free from the stigma and barriers associated with behavioral health challenges; and,

WHEREAS, For five decades, Healthcare Alternative Systems has been an instrumental organization in Chicago, growing to operate 14 facilities across the Chicagoland area, including its newest location in Bellwood, Illinois, to ensure access to life-changing services for underserved populations; and,

WHEREAS, Healthcare Alternative Systems provides a wide array of vital services, including substance use treatment, mental health counseling, domestic violence support, gambling prevention programs, housing assistance, and crisis intervention, offering hope and healing to thousands of individuals annually; and,

WHEREAS, Healthcare Alternative Systems' innovative programs and unwavering commitment to equity have made a profound impact on communities disproportionately affected by social and economic inequities, particularly on Chicago's West Side; and,

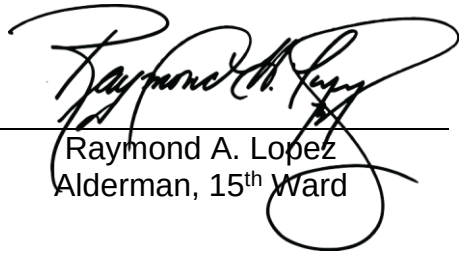
WHEREAS, On October 16, 2024, Healthcare Alternative Systems celebrated its 50th anniversary of service, honoring a legacy of resilience, advocacy, and community care, while continuing to address pressing challenges such as the opioid crisis and mental health access with dedication and compassion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 19th Day of February, 2025, do hereby recognizes Healthcare Alternative Systems for its fifty years of exemplary service and leadership in behavioral health and social services to our city; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, That the City of Chicago honors the legacy of Healthcare Alternative Systems' founder, Antonio "Toni" Garcia, and commends the organization's staff, volunteers, and supporters for their contributions to building healthier, more equitable communities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, That the City of Chicago encourages all residents to acknowledge and celebrate the transformative impact of Healthcare Alternative Systems and support its continued efforts to improve the lives of individuals and families throughout Chicagoland; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, That suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Healthcare Alternative Systems for display at all service locations throughout the City of Chicago.



Raymond A. Lopez
Alderman, 15th Ward