Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs, and Recreation
City Council Meeting
June 17, 2026

# **R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS,** His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost, is a native son of Chicago whose life of faith, service, and leadership have brought great honor to the City of Chicago and its people; and,

**WHEREAS,** Pope Leo XIV was formed within the rich tradition of Chicago's Catholic community, and his family's longstanding dedication to Catholic education, including his father's leadership as Principal of Mt. Carmel Catholic Elementary School, his mother's service as a Librarian at Mendel Catholic High School, and his brother's service as Principal of St. Gabriel Catholic School, exemplify a multigenerational commitment to the intellectual, moral, and spiritual formation of Chicago's youth; and,

**WHEREAS,** Pope Leo XIV pursued theological studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood and later served as an educator at St. Rita High School, maintaining enduring ties to the City throughout his life and ministry; and,

**WHEREAS,** The People of Chicago have long taken pride in the City's diverse immigrant, working-class, and faith-based communities, and Pope Leo XIV's life story reflects the values of service, perseverance, education, and community engagement that have defined generations of Chicagoans; and,

**WHEREAS,** Pope Leo XIV became the first American-born Roman Pontiff in the history of the Catholic Church, assuming leadership of more than 1.4 billion Catholics throughout the world and serving as a global advocate for peace, human dignity, charity, and justice; and,

**WHEREAS,** Pope Leo XIV has remained a lifelong supporter of the Chicago White Sox, reflecting his deep roots on Chicago's South Side and his enduring connection to the City's neighborhoods, institutions, and traditions; and,

**WHEREAS,** Pope Leo XIV’s attendance at Game 1 of the 2005 World Series is permanently commemorated by the White Sox at Rate Field through a mural and installation in Section 140 as well as a designation in Row 19, Seat 2, as a place of historic significance within the ballpark; and,

**WHEREAS,** The City of Chicago has long been enriched by the contributions of its Catholic community, religious institutions, schools, charities, and faithful citizens whose service has shaped the civic, cultural, and spiritual life of the City; and,

**WHEREAS,** Northerly Island stands as one of Chicago's most visible and cherished public spaces, welcoming residents and visitors alike while offering a place of reflection, recreation, and appreciation of the City's natural beauty; and,

**WHEREAS,** Renaming Northerly Island in honor of Pope Leo XIV would fittingly recognize an extraordinary Chicagoan whose life of service exemplifies the highest ideals of faith, humility, scholarship, and dedication to humanity; and,

**WHEREAS,** Such recognition would permanently commemorate the historic election of the first American Pope and celebrate the enduring connection between the City of Chicago and one of the most influential spiritual leaders of the modern era; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF CHICAGO**, That we, the Members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this 17th day of June, 2026, do hereby express our support to the Chicago Park District for the designation of Northerly Island as "Pope Leo XIV Northerly Island"; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the appropriate City departments work with the Chicago Park District to undertake all necessary studies, consultations, and actions required to implement such designation in accordance with applicable laws and procedures; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this Resolution and invitation to the renaming ceremony be presented to representatives of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV as a symbol of the gratitude and pride of the people of Chicago.

Raymond A. Lopez
Alderman, 15th Ward