R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, It Takes A Village Family of Schools believes that education is the cornerstone of community strength and personal empowerment. Founded with the mission to provide high-quality, culturally responsive education, ITAV has been dedicated to transforming the lives of students and their families for over two decades.

WHEREAS, the ITAV approach goes beyond traditional teaching methods by integrating a social justice framework that encourages students to engage critically with the world around them. This unique educational philosophy ensures that learning is not just informative but transformative, fostering intellectual excellence and social responsibility among students.

WHEREAS, ITAV operates an expansive range of educational programs tailored to the needs of our community. This includes six early learning centers, a Kindergarten through 8th grade elementary school in the South Loop, career and college prep programming, early childhood workforce development, and extensive after-school and violence prevention programming. ITAV also provides comprehensive family support and wrap around services, ensuring that the entire family unit is strengthened alongside our students.

WHEREAS, over the past twenty years, ITAV has positively impacted tens of thousands of lives, with more than 10,000 individuals benefiting from its programs annually, and nearly 1,500 youth and families receiving direct educational services every day.

WHEREAS, ITAV operates one of the few birth to 8th grade learning pathways in the country with rigorous academic programming taught one grade level ahead of standard curriculum programs. On average, 90% of ITAV's preschoolers demonstrate readiness for kindergarten in the areas of social, emotional, physical, language literacy and cognitive development. 83% of ITAV's preschoolers transition to kindergarten having mastered their letter names and sounds, along with having the ability to read basic sight words. 87% demonstrated an understanding of numbers 1 to 100, and had the ability to complete basic addition and subtraction problems.

WHEREAS, ITAV implements over 120 youth-led grassroot campaigns. Two of its most notable achievements involve the 'Changing the Name Campaign' of Douglass Park to honor Frederick and Anna Douglass; as well as when its First Graders successfully lobbied former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn to put $3 million into the state budget to support homeless youth.

WHEREAS, ITAV's World Scholars Program allows for students from the 3rd grade to the 8th grade to study a country of focus as an elective for one year. ITAV has taken children who hail from the west and south sides of Chicago on educational expeditions to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Brazil, South Africa, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Ghana, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama, and Rwanda.

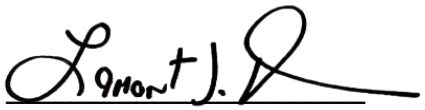
WHEREAS, ITAV regularly supports those interested in teaching careers to obtain their ECD-LEVEL 1 credentials. To date, 62 ITAV trained individuals have obtained the CDA credentials necessary to qualify them to be recognized as Teacher Assistants in the classroom. ITAV's model has been so successful that it was awarded a grant to provide PEL test prep classes to 40 teachers with bachelor's degrees and partnered with City Colleges of Chicago to host a cohort of 17 teachers at Malcolm X College to work towards their Associate Degrees. It is anticipated that 90% of those participants will receive their license.

WHEREAS, Alderman Robinson and Alderman Yancy are excited to partner and commemorate ITAV's recent acquisition of the former Hales Franciscan High School on an expansive 9.1-acre educational campus in the historic Bronzeville neighborhood. This expansion will enable ITAV to nearly double its daily student capacity and extend its programming from birth through high school, fulfilling its continuum of education, while serving as a community hub. The opening of the new campus is anticipated to have created a combined 210 permanent and temporary jobs stimulating economic development in the neighborhood.

WHEREAS, ITAV's core values are Innovation, Excellence, Leadership, Learning and Community. We are proud to recognize ITAV as a transformational leader, as it deepens its commitment to nurturing future leaders within and beyond Chicago.

BE IT RESOLVED, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this occasion by Alderman Lamont J. Robinson; and Alderman Desmon Yancy

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago do hereby congratulate It Takes a Village Family of Schools on its historic accomplishments and ribbon cutting ceremony.



LAMONT J. ROBINSON
Alderman, 4th Ward