

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on April 10, 1998, two agreements were mutually agreed to in Belfast, Northern Ireland, comprising the Good Friday Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the two agreements were agreed to separately following successful peace talks: one by the Irish and British governments, and the other by the political parties representing the unionist and nationalist constituencies in the north of Ireland and each government; and

WHEREAS, United States Special Envoy George Mitchell chaired the peace talks at the direction of President Bill Clinton, helping bring an end to nearly three decades of violence, loss, and political conflict in Ireland, and marking the beginning of a new era of peace; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 1998, referendums were held on the ratification of the Good Friday Agreement, with 94% of the people in Ireland and 71% of the people in Northern Ireland voting to ratify the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, under the Good Friday Agreement, the unification of Ireland will take place only with mutual consent, expressed in referendums North and South; and

WHEREAS, the Good Friday Agreement provides that each government may call for a referendum, and obligates the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to call for a democratic vote, and "shall" call for such a vote, "if it appears likely to him" that a majority of the people of Northern Ireland wish to unite with the Republic of Ireland; and

WHEREAS, surveys conducted in 2025 by Northern Ireland Life & Times, Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, and information published by Ireland's Future demonstrate that support for a united Ireland in Northern Ireland has shifted significantly in favor of unification, with young adults in Northern Ireland ages 18 to 24 favoring unification by a margin of 18%; and

WHEREAS, it is in keeping with the principles of democracy to support all efforts to fulfill the democratic processes outlined in the Good Friday Agreement, promote lasting peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland, and call upon the British and Irish governments to plan for the unification of Ireland in anticipation of a democratic vote by the people to unify Ireland; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, stand in solidarity with all Irish Americans and allies who support the principles set out in the Good Friday Agreement, recognizes the right of the people of Ireland to democratically determine their future in referendums North and South, and call on the British and Irish governments to agree on a date and process for hosting referendums and to institute anticipatory planning processes for the unification of Ireland.



ROSSANA RODRIGUEZ-SANCHEZ
Alderperson, 33rd Ward