

Resolution

Tribute to the late Alderperson Mary Ann Smith

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Smith served as Alderperson of the 48th ward for 22 years from 1989 to 2011, with a focus on improving the schools, building and preserving affordable housing, safeguarding seniors and people with mental illness, creating parks and playgrounds, rebuilding the Edgewater Branch Library, and improving pedestrian safety through innovative traffic calming and beautification measures that brought businesses, young people, and families to the neighborhood.

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Smith was dedicated to beautification of the 48th ward, planting trees along the Lakefront, along Broadway and Clark Street, preserving green spaces throughout the ward and creating new parks.

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Smith promoted historic preservation, driving the creation of three federally recognized historic districts in the 48th ward and helping to obtain historic preservation funding to build affordable housing.

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Smith was a pioneer for LGBTQ+ rights, leading efforts such as the creation of affordable housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and welcoming the LGBTQ+ community as homeowners and business owners to the neighborhood. She was inducted into the LGBT Hall of Fame in 1997.

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Smith prioritized public safety, empowered block clubs, and oversaw the creation of the city's first traffic circles, speed humps, and bike lanes ensuring resident safety and access to the Lakefront.

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Smith founded Operation Lakewatch, a grassroots effort dedicated to monitoring the cleanliness of Lake Michigan, passing state legislation on water quality in partnership with the state legislature, and working internationally to safeguard and preserve the Great Lakes region.

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Smith served as Chair of the City Council's Committee on Parks, helping to lead an effort to ban smoking at city beaches and secure funding to create playgrounds and community-based public art, one of her favorites community art projects being Indian Land Dancing.

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Smith continued to serve long after her tenure as Alderperson was over, notably on the Chicago Landmarks Commission and recently on the 48th Ward Zoning Advisory Council.

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Smith grew up on Chicago's Northwest Side, treasured her childhood memories reading at the Cultural Center Library, and received a bachelor's degree from Mundelein College.

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Smith is survived by her two loving sons, Matt and Michael, along with her cat who fetched her slippers, and her dog, Lucky.

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council, assembled here on this 18th day of September, 2024, do hereby honor Alderperson Mary Ann Smith, celebrate her life, thank her for her service, and express our appreciation for her many contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be prepared and presented to Alderperson Mary Ann Smith's family as a symbol of our esteem and respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LMH', with a stylized, flowing script.

Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth
Alderwoman, 48th Ward