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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

June 21, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with City Clerk Valencia, Aldermen Villegas, Cruz, Hadden, Martin, Chico, Rodriguez, O'Shea, Mosley, Nugent, Vasquez, Lawson, Sigcho-Lopez, Ervin, Hopkins, Mitts, Waguespack and Scott, a resolution honoring Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BJ", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, In recognition of its service and appreciation of its positive community outreach, the Mayor and Members of this Chamber are pleased to honor the Chicagoland members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority) as they participate in "AKA Day at Chicago City Council"; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was founded on January 15, 1908, with the mission to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of "Service to All Mankind"; and

WHEREAS, Early leaders of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority recognized the benefit of seeking civil rights, women's rights, and social reform. In 1913, the first International President of AKA, Nellie Quander, sought to participate in the women's suffragette movement for women's right to vote; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, at the 80th Boule in Atlanta, Georgia., desiring to establish a public policy plan for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the first International Vice President, Faye B. Bryant led a group to establish a Standing Committee, the Connection Committee. Through what is now known as the Connection and Social Action Committee, members have a vehicle to robustly engage in social, political, and civic involvement at all levels; and

WHEREAS, This rich heritage is embodied in the current International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Danette Anthony Reed (2022-2026) who hails from Chicago and was initiated into the sorority on the ivy-covered campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Under the banner of *Soaring to Greater Heights of Service and Sisterhood*, the 2022-2026 international administration seeks to build upon Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's rich legacy of service by being at the forefront of social justice and fairness and equity via vibrant chapters throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United Arab Emirates; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is home to 43 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority chapters, 15 of which are located on college and university campuses and 28 active alumnae chapters are located in communities throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, The Ivy Center, was established as the sorority's corporate headquarters in Chicago, and for over 70 years served as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's hub for all sorority activities and is considered an icon of the community and the City; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Day at Chicago City Council is one of many opportunities for members to advocate for critical issues to the communities we prioritize, such as access to high quality education, maternal health and infant mortality, suicide prevention, public safety, environmental justice, and fiscal transparency—issues we know are priorities for this administration under the leadership of the third Black Mayor of Chicago, Mayor Brandon Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Currently, two members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority are serving in the Chicago City Council, Alderwoman Michelle A. Harris, 8th Ward and Alderwoman Stephanie D. Coleman, 16th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Currently, several members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority are elected officials in the State of Illinois, including 48th Lieutenant Governor Julianna Stratton; State Senator and Assistant Majority Leader Mattie Hunter, 3rd District; and former 4th Ward Alderwoman (1991-2010), current Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle; and

WHEREAS, On June 21, 2023, Chicagoland members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will participate in "AKA Day at Chicago City Council"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-first day of June, 2023, do hereby declare June 21, 2023 as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day in the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Theta Omega, Lambda Mu Omega, Lambda Nu Omega, Phi Kappa Omega, Tau Gamma Omega, Xi Nu Omega, Chi Omega Omega, and Alpha Beta Delta Omega Chapters in recognition of all Chicagoland chapters.