

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is with a heavy heart and great sadness that we express our condolences at the passing of Karen Yarbrough, a trailblazing politician who dutifully served Cook County and the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Karen Yarbrough was born on August 22, 1950 in Washington, D.C., and her family moved to Maywood, IL in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, she studied business management at Chicago State University and received her master's in Inner City Studies from Northeastern Illinois University, later becoming a licensed real estate broker and founding her own insurance agency in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Karen Yarbrough was first elected to the State House of Representatives in 2000, and faithfully served her district until being elected Cook County Recorder of Deeds in 2012; and

WHEREAS, during her time as a state legislator, Rep. Yarbrough helped sponsor and pass numerous pieces of impactful legislation, including the state ban on indoor smoking, the state ban on executions, and securing money for basic local projects ranging from repaving a library parking lot to redoing local alleyways and streetscapes; and

WHEREAS, when Karen Yarbrough was elected Cook County Recorder of Deeds in 2012 and Clerk in 2018, she was the first Black person and first woman to serve as Cook County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, when the Recorder's office was eliminated, she assumed all duties of that office as Cook County Clerk in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Karen Yarbrough was active in Democratic Party politics, working for both the Cook County Democratic Party and the Democratic Party of Illinois, acting as a Democratic committeeperson representing west suburban Proviso Township for the Cook County party, where she was also the treasurer, and serving as a member of the state central committee for the Illinois party; and

WHEREAS, she received numerous awards recognizing her efforts to promote social justice, public health, fair housing, anti-violence, volunteerism and women's rights, and she proudly mentored young people who sought to become more involved in their communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled on this seventeenth day of April 2024, do hereby express our sorrow with the passing of Karen Yarbrough and extend our sincere condolences to her family and the countless lives she impacted, and honor her life and legacy in the City of Chicago and throughout the State of Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Karen Yarbrough's family as a symbol of our gratitude for her contributions and immense impact on the betterment of the State and the efficient governance of the County, and as an expression of our deepest sympathy.