

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Acknowledging his advocacy for the increased rights of minority figures in the Chicago Police Department and his endeavor to establish equality in the workspace, the City of Chicago proudly recognizes Officer Renault Robinson's contribution to the city a Founding Member of the Afro-American Patrolmen's League (AAPL) and sends its condolences to his family succeeding his passing; and

WHEREAS, Renault Robinson was born 46th South Prairie Ave., Chicago, Illinois on September 8, 1942, and grew up as the oldest of eight children. After attending Corpus Christi High School in his youth, he moved to Hyde Park High School, where he graduated in 1960; and

WHEREAS, He then went on to further his education by attending the University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana until 1964, when a pivotal decision instigated him to join the Chicago Police Department, in spite of the prevalent racial inequality present in the system; and

WHEREAS, From the very beginning, Robinson portrayed an incredible work ethic, with a 97% percent efficiency rating along with 50 citations for outstanding work within his first year as an Undercover Vice Officer with his partner, Retired Officer Frank Lee. Within 4 years, Robinson had transformed from a local college graduate into a model police officer; and

WHEREAS, After witnessing the severe racial prejudice and corruption that plagued the Chicago Police Department, he, along with others, co-founded the AAPL in 1968. They rallied together to combat discrimination against Black officers and strive for an entire social reform of the system, in order to elevate the image of Black policeman to a position of respect and dignity; and

WHEREAS, Despite the successes of the AAPL, members of the organization suffered from negative scrutiny and harassment from the CPD. They received charges for minor infractions, were suspended frequently and were threatened with dismissal from the CPD in the hopes of dismantling the league. After receiving a one year suspension, Robinson pursued a bachelor degree and Master's degree from Roosevelt University; and

WHEREAS, In the midst of mounting animosity, Robinson and the AAPL stood firm, and persevered, continuing to challenge the racism ingrained within CPD. In 1973, the organization filed a discrimination suit against the Chicago Police Department, and after intense effort, the Supreme Court agreed; and

WHEREAS, This landmark Supreme Court ruling resulted in a whopping 25% increase in African American personnel in the CPD, and increased representation for women and other minorities, marking the first step in the venture towards equality within the CPD; and

WHEREAS, Renault Robinson would serve as an first as a campaign organizer for Harold Washington's first mayoral campaign in 1977. He celebrated along with the rest of the Black

community during Harold Washington's historic victory in 1983. And Robinson would serve as Campaign Manager for Washington's hard fought re-election campaign in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Following his 20 years of service for the CPD, he assumed a variety of additional roles working for the community; and

WHEREAS, Renault Robinson was first appointed a Commissioner of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Board in 1978 and then in August 1983 he became chairman of the CHA board under the administration of Mayor Harold Washington; and,

WHEREAS, After serving with the Chicago Housing Authority, he became Vice President of ASI Personnel Service in 1989. Eventually he established of his own agency, Renault Robinson Staffing, in 2000. He would end his illustrative career in 2016 running Renault Robinson – Facilities & Ground Maintenance Services; and

WHEREAS, On July 8, 2023, Officer Renault Robinson passed away at the age of 80. His wife of 60 years, Annette Robinson, remarks on his zeal for the cause and states that "He was always in The Struggle for civil rights and [for] our respect and equality in the Black community"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this nineteenth day of September, 2023 do hereby commemorate Officer Renault Robinson for his grit and determination as founder of the Afro-American Patrolmen's League; express our deepest condolences to his family and honor his unwavering service to our policing systems, our City and our country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Renault Robinson's family as a symbol of our profound appreciation for his leadership in the tireless struggle and passion to eradicate racism and discrimination within our police force, and for leaving a blueprint for the widespread alteration of police systems nationally.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lamont J. Robinson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lamont J. Robinson
Alderspersion, 4th Ward