

**RESOLUTION HONORING DERONIS COOPER
AND HIS AWARD-WINNING GARDEN**

WHEREAS, After a decade of tending his garden in the Garfield Park neighborhood, Deronis Cooper, a 20-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, has been honored with a Chicago Excellence in Gardening Award; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of Officer Cooper's achievement by the Honorable Jason C. Ervin, Alderman of the 28th Ward; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Ripon College in Wisconsin, Deronis returned to Chicago, where he began his career as a television news producer for Chicago CBS Channel 2, working with renowned TV personalities, including Lester Holt; and

WHEREAS, After leaving television to pursue a career in public service, Deronis became a Chicago Police officer, which led to him being the center of intense and stressful situations, including helping capture the man who was later convicted of murdering Commander Paul Bauer; and

WHEREAS, Looking for an outlet to relieve the day-to-day stress and pressure of his job, Officer Cooper began gardening with inspiration from his grandmother; and

WHEREAS, At first, he couldn't even name a single plant, but with support of his friend and fellow public servant Nikki, a paramedic, the plants – and his backyard refuge – began to flourish; and

WHEREAS, A decade later, Officer Cooper's green thumb led to him being awarded the best residential garden by Chicago's Excellence in Gardening Awards which highlighted the variety of native plants that covered his fence; and

WHEREAS, Officer Cooper's Garden has grown into a proud and beautiful sight within the Garfield Park neighborhood, featuring plants from 60 garden centers across the Midwest, and attracting local residents and even becoming a tourist destination; and

WHEREAS, The garden has even become an Instagram destination, leading to Officer Cooper being recognized as far away as Hampshire, Illinois while shopping for plants for his garden; and

WHEREAS, Local residents consider the garden “a gift to the community” and a reminder that despite Garfield Park's challenges, friendly people can and do live, work, and thrive here; and

WHEREAS, Officer Cooper's dedication to his garden in the heart of the Garfield Park neighborhood has contributed to the beauty of this City and the Garfield Park community, while also bringing people from different neighborhoods to see the oasis that he has created and the community he loves; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, proudly honor Officer Deronis Cooper for his service to the Chicago Police Department and his creation of a garden that has become an award winning destination in the Garfield Park neighborhood; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Officer Deronis Cooper as a sign of our honor and respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ervin', written over a horizontal line.

JASON C. ERVIN
Alderman, 28th Ward