RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING TO ANITA GILKEY ON HER UPCOMING RETIREMENT FROM THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Anita Gilkey is retiring from the Chicago Parks District at the end of 2023, following 34 years of dedicated public service; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this occasion by the Honorable Peter Chico, Alderman of the 10th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Anita attended Chicago State University where she excelled in academics and athletics; while there she received academic excellence awards, all while playing on the basketball and softball teams; and

WHEREAS, After graduating in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, with a concentration in Recreation, Anita received a Master of Science Degree in Education, with a concentration in the Administration of Physical Education and Sports, from the University of Illinois at Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Eager to put her skills and knowledge to use serving the public, Anita began her illustrious career with the Chicago Parks District in May 1989 as a part-time physical instructor at Kelly Park and McGuane Park before being promoted to full-time physical instructor at Cornell Square Park in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Anita continued to advance through the ranks of the Parks District, being promoted to playground supervisor at Wendell Smith Park in 1993, followed by a promotion to park supervisor at LeClaire Park in 1996, before transferring to LaFollette Park in 1997 and Russell Square Park in 2000; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Anita became the acting area manager for area 4 South, and was promoted to area manager for area 6 South in 2005, where she remained until 2021 until she transferred to Legislative and Community Affairs as a project manager, where she will stay until retirement on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her long and distinguished career, Anita's love of sports, children, and people and dedication to duty earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues and the communities she served; her presence in the Chicago Parks District will be sorely missed; and

WHEREAS, The leaders of the City of Chicago want to recognize the great debt owed to our public servants, and extend our sincerest gratitude to the long and prolific career of Anita Gilkey; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago gathered here this nineteenth day of July 2023, do hereby express our gratitude for 34 years of service to the people of the City of Chicago, and express our heartiest wishes on a pleasant retirement to Anita Gilkey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Anita Gilkey.

PETER CHICO Alderman, 10th Ward