

SALUTING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF A.R. LEAK & SONS FUNERAL HOMES

WHEREAS, A.R. Leak & Sons Funeral Homes has reached a significant milestone, celebrating its 90th Anniversary in providing compassionate and dignified funeral services to the citizens of the City of Chicago and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS the legacy of A.R. Leak & Sons Funeral Homes traces back to the year 1933 when Rev. A.R. Leak, with unwavering determination and a vision to offer affordable and respectable funeral services, established the business with just \$500 earned as a bathroom attendant at the Chicago World Fair and a \$500 loan from his beloved wife, Dorothy; and

WHEREAS the inaugural location of A.R. Leak & Sons Funeral Homes opened its doors at 4448 S. State Street in 1933, and with the guidance of God and the dedication of the Leak family, this single location has grown into a respected institution serving over 2000 families each year with the utmost care and professionalism; and

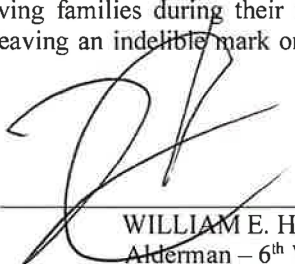
WHEREAS the remarkable journey of A.R. Leak & Sons Funeral Homes continues as it enters its ninth decade of operation, now under the leadership of Spencer Leak, Sr., the owner and president, representing the second generation, and his daughter, who stands as the third generation and vice president of the business; and

WHEREAS, A.R. Leak & Sons Funeral Homes has not only been a beacon of service in the funeral industry but has also played an instrumental role in the Civil Rights movement, fostering the values of equality, justice, and fairness. The legacy of A.R. Leak & Sons Funeral Homes is intrinsically tied to its unwavering support of the Civil Rights movement, with Rev. A.R. Leak being a close friend to Dr. Martin Luther King, providing essential limousine services for his visits to Chicago, and Spencer Leak, Sr. driving Dr. King to his historic speech at Soldier Field, addressing the housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of A.R. Leak & Sons Funeral Homes to the principles of justice and equality was further demonstrated when Rev. A.R. Leak led a courageous march, joined by the NAACP, Rev. Clay Evans, and prominent ministers, to desegregate Chicago's Oakwood Cemetery, a historic turning point in the fight against segregation, paving the way for many notable African Americans, including Jesse Owens and The Honorable Harold Washington, to find their resting places there; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we the mayor and the City of Chicago City Council, Gathered this 1st Day of November, 2023 do hereby express our sincerest best wishes to Spencer Leak, Sr. and his family on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary of A.R. Leak & Sons Funeral Homes and furthermore acknowledge the profound impact this iconic institution has had on the funeral industry and the broader Chicago community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Leak family for their steadfast commitment to the values of dignity, respect, and equality in serving families during their most challenging times as well as for their pivotal role in the Civil Rights movement, leaving an indelible mark on the history of our city



WILLIAM E. HALL
Alderman – 6th Ward