

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JAMEEL ISHMAEL ALI

WHEREAS, Jameel Ishmael Ali, father and dedicated student of Islam, returned to his Creator on November 14, 2023; and

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

WHEREAS, Jameel Ishmael Ali was born on December 9, 1954 in St. Louis, Missouri; the eldest of three children born to James Alvin Pearson, Sr. and Zelda Kate Curry-Pearson, Jameel was an easygoing, polite, and respectful child who made friends easily wherever he went; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, Jameel and his mother relocated to Chicago to start a new life, where he attended Presentation Catholic School and played first chair trumpet in the band before graduating from St. Mel High School, where he played baseball; and

WHEREAS, After high school, Jameel attended Eastern Illinois University where he was involved in the Black Student Union; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, while working a summer job, Jameel was introduced to the Nation of Islam by a coworker, changing his life forever; from then on, he dedicated himself as a student of Islam for the rest of his days – he was strong in faith, willing to share his knowledge with anyone who would listen, and while he attended various masjid throughout the Atlanta area, he considered Masjid An Nur as his home; and

WHEREAS, After graduating college, Jameel worked at Household Finance Corporation in Chicago, before starting a 2-year career with Illinois Bell (now AT&T) as a Project Manager, which brought him to St. Louis, and eventually Atlanta, where he settled for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, After, Jameel worked for Delta Airlines, which offered him the opportunity to travel to Israel, Cuba, and many other places, and for Home Depot, which recognized him this year as a 2023 Pro Champion; and

WHEREAS, Jameel was a lifelong learner who loved reading, intellectual discussions, travel, dancing, cooking, jazz, and fine art; he was also a 3rd degree black belt who studied martial arts under Grandmasters Moses Powell and Cleveland Robinson; and

WHEREAS, Preceding Jameel in death are his father, James Alvin Pearson, Sr., and stepfather, Silas Lee Anderson; Jameel leaves behind his son, Marwan Ali (Sonya); mother, Zelda K. Anderson; sisters, Kimberly Muhammad and Tara Anderson-Canty (Edward); sister-cousin, Annie Collins; three nieces, Kamaria Muhammad, Najila Canty, and Khalila Canty; close friends, Jameel Salaam, Andrew Wilson, Kevin Prince; and a host of relatives, friends, and coworkers; and

WHEREAS, Jameel will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby extend our most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Jameel Ishmael Ali; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Jameel Ishmael Ali as a sign of our honor and respect.



JASON C. ERVIN
Alderman, 28th Ward