

**RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

WHEREAS, St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, pillar of the Lawndale neighborhood, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on September 17, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The City Council has been informed of this milestone by the Honorable Jason C. Ervin, Alderman of the 28th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Built in 1910 in the Greek Revival-style as Anshe Sholom Synagogue, the building was dedicated as St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church in 1927 – drawing a crowd of over 2,000; and

WHEREAS, St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church was the first Greek Orthodox cathedral designated in Chicago, by Bishop Philaretos, the first Greek Orthodox Bishop in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Despite facing a decline in membership after the construction of the Eisenhower Expressway, which cut through Greektown, and facing a disastrous fire in 1977, faithful members remained dedicated to the church; in 1988, the new pastor, Father Chris Kerhulas, lead a complete renovation of the sanctuary which included installation of new ions from the renowned iconographer Athanasios Clark of Athens; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the church was yet again ravished by a fire forcing the congregation to celebrate the liturgy and sacraments and join in ministry in Philoptochos Hall in the church's basement; and

WHEREAS, Despite the many hardships faced by St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, the community always rebounds, growing closer in faith, and after a successful capital campaign, once again renovating the sanctuary to welcome new and returning parishioners to join in the apostolic tradition; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this thirteenth day of September, 2023, do hereby express our gratitude and our heartfelt congratulations to the St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church in celebration of its 100th anniversary and extend to the entire congregation our very best wishes and every success in all of its future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church.



JASON C. ERVIN
Alderman, 28th Ward