

# A Resolution

to be adopted by *The City Council*  
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



## SALUTE TO LAURIE DITTMAN FOR THREE DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**WHEREAS** Laurie Dittman has faithfully served the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities for the past three decades, demonstrating unwavering commitment and dedication to her work; and

**WHEREAS** Laurie has been a tireless advocate in Chicago's independent politics and LGBTQ+ organizing, making significant contributions to the advancement of LGBTQ+ rights and the fight against sexual-orientation discrimination; and

**WHEREAS** Laurie Dittman's journey of public service commenced after she received her degree in political science from Knox College in 1979, relocating to Chicago, and beginning her career as a volunteer and part-time administrative assistant of the Independent Voters of Illinois–Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO). She played an instrumental role in the LGBTQ+ rights movement, organizing the first independent gay and lesbian caucus within IVI-IPO and becoming a core member of Lesbians and Gays for Washington, actively participating in the late Harold Washington's historic mayoral campaigns; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure as the executive director of IVI-IPO from 1981 to 1990, Laurie Dittman ensured the organization's active engagement in the fight for LGBTQ+ civil rights, and in particular through her leadership in the Gay and Lesbian Town Meeting that launched the campaign against sexual orientation discrimination in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS** Laurie Dittman leveraged her extensive network of contacts and alliances, including the Chicago chapter of the National Organization for Women, to develop winning strategies that led to the passage of Chicago's expanded human rights law on December 21, 1988. She continued her advocacy efforts by effectively organizing for the passage of Chicago's hate crimes ordinance in 1990 and played a significant role in achieving the passage of the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance in 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, transitioning into government service, Laurie Dittman was appointed as a Special Assistant to the City Treasurer under Miriam Santos, successfully advocating for a city ordinance requiring banks to pledge non-discrimination in their lending practices to maintain their status as depositories of city funds;

**WHEREAS**, in 1994, Laurie Dittman was appointed as Deputy City Treasurer, reaching the highest-ranking openly gay or lesbian position in Chicago city government at the time. Laurie's outstanding contributions have been widely recognized through various awards and honors, including the title of Organizer of the Year by Gay Chicago Magazine, the Liberty Bell Award from the Chicago Bar Association, an award of merit from the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, as well as several awards from IVI-IPO and IMPACT's Alongi Award; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Bennett R. Lawson, Alderman of the 44<sup>th</sup> Ward, has brought to the attention of this august body this remarkable woman's achievements and accolades. Her retirement will be a considerable loss to this city's body politic; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered this 1<sup>st</sup> Day of November 2023, express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Laurie Dittman for her long and distinguished career, unwavering commitment to LGBTQ+ rights, and tireless efforts to combat discrimination.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Laurie Dittman.

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**BENNETT R. LAWSON**  
Alderpreson – 44<sup>th</sup> Ward