

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE

WHEREAS, the members of the City Council are deeply saddened by the passing of musician Justin Townes Earle, who honored Chicago and Rogers Park throughout his career,

WHEREAS, Justin was a passionate musician throughout his life as a Nashville native, learning to play the guitar in his early teenage years and writing songs about the nuanced experiences of humanity and emotional struggle, historical events, and social justice, with insightful and thought-provoking lyrics,

WHEREAS, Justin moved to Rogers Park to further his music career, as well as “to chase Howlin’ Wolf” and “know why the blues went electric”, rapidly becoming a fixture in the Chicago music scene,

WHEREAS, Justin was a Chicago cultural enthusiast, both as a dedicated fan of the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago hot dog; he considered the Cubs an important part of his life, sharing baseball facts about the team with his friends, family and even audiences at shows,

WHEREAS, Justin was an acclaimed American singer and songwriter, recognized with the Americana Music Award for Emerging Artist of the Year (2009) as well as the Americana Music Award for Song of the Year (2011),

WHEREAS, Justin devoted his life to his craft, releasing two records by the age of 26, recording 9 total albums by the time of his passing at the age of 38,

WHEREAS, Justin was a notable, leading artist in the blues, country, and Americana guitar genres, having created a unique acoustic guitar picking style that was influential across genres, inspiring an exclusive guitar, the “Justin Townes Earle Signature Guitar”, that was released in his honor by the brand Recording King in 2021,

WHEREAS, Justin was beloved by his family, friends and fans, and his spirit and tender heart live on through his music, continuing to inspire and give hope to many who identified with his experiences,

WHEREAS, Alderwoman Maria E. Hadden, the Rogers Park community, and all neighbors in the 49th Ward will forever be grateful for Justin’s contributions to the strength and richness of our neighborhood, especially through his song “Rogers Park”, and

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-first day of June, 2023 do hereby honor the life and legacy of Justin Townes Earle, and extend our most heartfelt condolences to family and friends; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to “Team JTE” and the family of Justin Townes Earle, as a token of our honor, gratitude, and respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M E Hadden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Maria E. Hadden
Aldersperson, 49th Ward