

Richard Hunt Resolution

Whereas, Richard Hunt, one of the most important sculptors this nation has produced, was born on September 12, 1935 and raised in Woodlawn and Englewood, attended Chicago Public Schools, received his B.A.E. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1957, then served in the United States Army from 1958-60; and

Whereas, Richard Hunt was a trailblazer in many ways. In 1957, he gained national recognition when the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York acquired his sculpture, *Arachne*. Appointed by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968, he was the first African American visual artist to serve on the National Council on the Arts. In 1971, he was the first African American sculptor to have a solo retrospective at MoMA; and

Whereas, Richard Hunt used innovative techniques in welding and casting various metals to create works of varying scales to depict dozens of historical figures, major social movements, and the struggle for freedom; and

Whereas, Richard Hunt created more than 160 public commissions and works in public spaces across the United States—the most of any sculptor. His 35-foot bronze work *Light of Truth: The Ida B. Wells National Monument*—installed in 2021 in Bronzeville—is the only monument to an African American woman in Chicago; and his sculpture, *Book Bird*, will be installed at the Obama Presidential Center; and

Whereas, Richard Hunt, when nineteen years old, witnessed the open-casket funeral of Emmett Till in Chicago which influenced both his artistic expression and his commitment to the cause of Civil Rights. Hunt's monument to Emmett Till, *Hero Ascending*, will be installed at Mamie and Emmett Till-Mobley House Museum and Theater; and

Whereas, Richard Hunt had more than 150 solo exhibitions, is featured in more than 100 public museums across the globe, served on dozens of boards, committees and councils, and received over 17 honorary degrees and 35 awards; and

Whereas, Richard Hunt purchased a former Chicago Railway Systems Company electrical substation, built in 1909, at 1017 West Lill Avenue, in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. The structure has natural light from cathedral-like windows, as well as an overhead bridge crane ideally suited for moving large sculptures; and

Whereas, Richard Hunt lived and worked out of his studio in Chicago for more than 50 years and his large-scale work, *Eagle Columns*, stands in the adjacent Jonquil Park on the corner of Sheffield and Wrightwood. His contributions to the art world over his seven-decade career are invaluable; and

Whereas, Richard Hunt passed away peacefully on December 16, 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council, gathered together on April 17, 2024 recognize Richard Hunt for his vast contributions to the art world and the City of Chicago with an honorary street name of "Richard Hunt Place" to be located on Lill Avenue between Sheffield and Racine.

