

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Newberry Library will open an immersive exhibition called *A Night at Mister Kelly's* in March 2024, which is free and open to the public, and will feature an array of artifacts from the heyday of one of Chicago's most famous nightclubs; and

WHEREAS, Mister Kelly's was a world-class destination for dinner, live jazz, and standup comedy from 1953 through 1975; and

WHEREAS, George and Oscar Marienthal were brothers who co-owned three successful Chicago nightclubs: London House, The Happy Medium, and Mister Kelly's; and

WHEREAS, Mister Kelly's, located at 1028 North Rush Street, was the hub of the Rush Street corridor once described as "the Las Vegas Strip of the Midwest."; and

WHEREAS, Mister Kelly's had a rich history spanning several decades, showcasing a commitment to promoting the arts and providing a platform for talented performers; and

WHEREAS, The venue featured a who's who of performers including Barbra Streisand, Richard Pryor, Bob Newhart, Della Reese, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, and many more; and

WHEREAS, The Rush Street entertainment strip in the 1950s through the 1970s, was often an exception to the rampant segregation in Chicago, particularly the welcoming atmosphere of Mister Kelly's; and

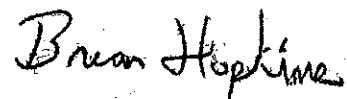
WHEREAS, The club was a meeting place for individuals from all walks of life, fostering a sense of community and shared appreciation for the arts; and

WHEREAS, Since 1887, the Newberry has been an independent research library in the Gold Coast neighborhood with a vast collection of materials that spans 600 years of human experience; and

WHEREAS, One of the Newberry's recent acquisitions is a trove of books, posters, photos, recordings, and ephemera related to Mister Kelly's; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago do hereby celebrate the cultural contribution Mister Kelly's made to Chicago and hereby declare March 22, 2024 as "Mister Kelly's Day"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy be prepared and presented to the Newberry Library in honor of their exhibit of a Chicago institution.



BRIAN HOPKINS
Alderman, 2nd Ward