

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEAH HERRERA

WHEREAS, Leah Herrera, an incredible and outgoing eight-year-old Chicagoan, was taken away from us too soon on August 31, 2021, after living with a rare brain cancer for over a year; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of Leah's story by the Honorable Michael D. Rodriguez, Alderman of the 22nd Ward; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 2, 2012, Leah had a personality like no other – an extremely outgoing, Tik Tok-loving, unicorn-loving, hands-on-her-hips-sassy fashionista and princess, with a loving family, two amazing older sisters, a fun mom, a cool dad, and three fur siblings; and

WHEREAS, In March 2020, Leah began developing tremors and issues with her eyesight while at her “home away from home” – Mark Twain Elementary; Leah would be diagnosed with anaplastic astrocytoma, a rare, grade III glioma; and

WHEREAS, Since surgery wasn't an option due to the location of the tumor in her brain, Leah's treatment began almost instantly, consisting of chemotherapy and intense radiation therapy – or “superpowers” as Leah called it – five days a week for six weeks; and

WHEREAS, Even though the world was shutting down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Leah was able to continue going to school remotely, balancing a regular childhood with her aggressive treatment regimen; and

WHEREAS, Throughout a rollercoaster of emotions, filled with good days and bad, Leah continued smiling, dancing, and laughing – all of the day-to-day experiences we take for granted – determined to be stronger than any tumor, any treatment, any cancer and getting back to her “brain-tumors-be-trippin” self; and

WHEREAS, Despite showing signs of improvement, only six months after beginning treatment Leah began developing limpness in her left leg and was diagnosed with another tumor; and

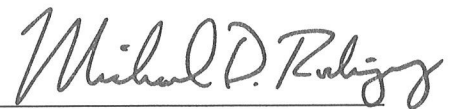
WHEREAS, Leah, the hero that she was, became part of a clinical immunotherapy trial at Lurie Children's Hospital; not once was Leah scared during her treatments, and her determination made everything just a little less scary for everyone around her; and

WHEREAS, A few months later, after it was discovered that the immunotherapy was not working, Leah passed in her “castle” surrounded by her family; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her too-short time with us, Leah never looked at herself as “sick”; she kept her mind and heart open to the world, touching countless lives with her determination and positivity; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this twenty-fourth day of May, 2023, celebrate the life of Leah Herrera; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Leah Herrera as a sign of our honor and respect.



MICHAEL D. RODRIGUEZ
Alderman, 22nd Ward