

## ORDINANCE

**WHEREAS,** Betty Jo Swanson was born in Bradely, Arkansas on January 22, 1943, to Katie Mae Fagan and James Henry Fagan, but spent her early childhood in Texarkana, Texas. In 1955, Betty Jo relocated to Chicago, Illinois.

**WHEREAS,** in Chicago, Betty Jo graduated from Parker Highschool in 1961. Shortly after, Betty gave her life to Christ and became a member of New Friendship Baptist Church where she began her commitment to community involvement. In 1966, she married the love of her life, John L. Swanson. To this union, two beautiful children were born, one boy and one girl.

**WHEREAS,** Betty Jo sought a career as a key-punch operator in 1966, and in 1967 was promoted to key-punch supervisor. Soon after, she persuaded 3 of her siblings to come on board and begin careers as well. She began working for Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1976. After 27 years of service, Betty Jo thought it would be a good time to retire and pour into her community full time.

**WHEREAS,** in addition to participating in many organizations, she also stepped up to leadership roles. She served in the following roles:

- 7900 Block of South Carpenter St., Block Club President (35+ years)
- 006th District CAPS, Beat 612 Facilitator
- Neighborhood Housing Service, Founding Board Member & Board President
- Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation, Board Member & Vice-Chair
- City of Chicago 6th District Senior Subcommittee, Chair
- City of Chicago 6th District Advisory Committee (DAC), Chair

**WHEREAS,** as a community leader, Betty could often be seen doing many television interviews. She was also featured in several news articles. Over the years, she had received many awards including appreciation awards, certificates of recognition, the Dorothy Richardson Award (National Community Development Tribute), and the President's Call to Service Award.

**WHEREAS** Betty Jo was an asset to the world and is remembered for her warmness. Betty Jo died on January 22, 2023, which would have been her 80th birthday and is an Auburn Gresham decorated community leader.

### BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

**Section 1.** Pursuant to Section 2-8-040 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, which allows erection of honorary street name designations, the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation shall take the necessary action for standardization of 8000 South Carpenter as "Betty Jo Swanson's Way."

**Section 2.** This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication.



**Alderman 17th Ward**

---

DAVID MOORE

Alderman, 17th Ward