



HR0336

LRB101 12246 MST 59933 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Chicago Alderman Margaret
4 Laurino on her 25 years of dedicated and outstanding service to
5 the people of the 39th Ward and the City of Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, As a lifelong resident of the 39th Ward, Margaret
7 Laurino graduated from St. Edward Elementary School and
8 Alvernia High School in Chicago; she earned a bachelor's degree
9 in education and a master's degree in history from Northeastern
10 Illinois University; and

11 WHEREAS, The seeds of Margaret Laurino's passion for public
12 service were sown at a young age as she witnessed her father,
13 former Alderman Anthony Laurino, actively and tirelessly serve
14 the citizens of the 39th Ward for over three decades; and

15 WHEREAS, An ardent supporter of addressing constituents'
16 needs, Margaret Laurino started her career serving in the 39th
17 Ward office and eventually became chief of staff; and

18 WHEREAS, Following the retirement of her father, former
19 Mayor Richard M. Daley recognized Margaret Laurino's
20 accomplishments and leadership capability and appointed her
21 interim 39th Ward Alderman; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1995, Margaret Laurino offered to voters her
2 own compelling vision for a thriving 39th Ward; that vision,
3 coupled with her growing reputation as someone who was
4 forward-thinking and driven to achieve positive results, won
5 her the election and five elections thereafter; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout her illustrious career, Margaret
7 Laurino focused on addressing the needs integral to the quality
8 of life, including good schools, educational opportunities for
9 all, health and public safety, services for senior citizens,
10 economic growth, capital and infrastructure improvements,
11 constituent access to city services, and government
12 transparency; and

13 WHEREAS, Margaret Laurino's many citywide initiatives
14 included expanding high speed wireless Internet access to all
15 city residents, banning texting while biking, mandating online
16 ethics and sexual harassment training for city employees, video
17 streaming Chicago City Council meetings, requiring detailed
18 information about each of the city's tax increment finance
19 districts to be posted on the city's website, advancing plans
20 to make the city more accessible to and safer for pedestrians,
21 convening a Food Desert Task Force to ensure that communities
22 of color have access to healthy and nutritious foods, and
23 creating the Aldermanic intern program, which provides college

1 students with a unique work experience and the opportunity to
2 learn city government operations; and

3 WHEREAS, As a result of Margaret Laurino's leadership,
4 numerous infrastructure and public safety improvements were
5 accomplished; over 300 residential blocks, 100 alleys, and
6 several major arterial streets were repaved or resurfaced; over
7 \$6 million in infrastructure improvements were made in Albany
8 Park alone; \$12 million was secured from the city's Rainblocker
9 pilot program; a \$70 million underground tunnel was constructed
10 to relieve flooding in Albany Park, as well as a new \$15
11 million state-of-the-art 17th District police station; and

12 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to improving Chicago's Public
13 Schools and providing educational resources to learners of all
14 ages, Margaret Laurino championed increased public school
15 funding, fought tirelessly for infrastructure improvements at
16 area schools, including construction of the buildings for the
17 Haugan Middle School and the Albany Park Multicultural Academy
18 and new annexes at the Volta, Haugan, Sauganash, Hibbard, and
19 Palmer Elementary Schools, and secured the funding for a new
20 \$15 million Albany Park library, which opened in 2014; and

21 WHEREAS, As co-founder of the Peterson-Pulaski Business
22 and Industrial Council, Sauganash Chamber of Commerce, and
23 Pulaski Elston Business Association, Margaret Laurino retained

1 jobs and attracted new employers to the 39th Ward; she
2 regularly used the Small Business Improvement Fund to assist
3 neighborhood businesses in becoming more prosperous; and

4 WHEREAS, Margaret Laurino partnered with the Heartland
5 Alliance, Swedish Covenant Hospital, and Chicago Public
6 Schools to open health centers at the Albany Park Multicultural
7 Academy and at Roosevelt High School; she secured funding for
8 the construction of a 97-unit apartment building for senior
9 citizens in the Mayfair neighborhood and obtained funding for
10 senior citizen home improvement grants; thanks to her efforts,
11 North Park Village is now home to over 500 seniors; and

12 WHEREAS, In July 2013, having earned her reputation as an
13 experienced, thoughtful, productive, and fair-minded leader,
14 Margaret Laurino was chosen by her colleagues to serve as
15 president pro tempore of the Chicago City Council; and

16 WHEREAS, Margaret Laurino has served with distinction on
17 many Chicago City Council committees, including most recently
18 as a member of the Committee on the Budget and Government
19 Operations, Committee on Finance, and Committee on Workforce
20 Development and Audit; she also has overseen the City Council
21 Legislative Reference Bureau; and

22 WHEREAS, Margaret Laurino has consistently embodied and

1 modeled the highest standards of public service for her staff,
2 colleagues, and constituents: authentic caring, hard work, an
3 ability to forge partnerships for the greater good, a positive
4 focus on the future, and, the capability for taking strategic
5 actions that make a sustainable difference in achieving a
6 better life for all of Chicago's citizens; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the years, Margaret Laurino earned the
8 respect of her city council colleagues and city staff for her
9 intelligence, her graciousness, and her good humor; in addition
10 to her official duties, she and her team achieved near
11 legendary status as the official party planners of the annual
12 aldermanic holiday party, authoring such memorable scripts
13 such as The Wizard, Bye, Bye Daley, It's a Wonderful Life, and
14 Council Joys; and

15 WHEREAS, Being alderman of the 39th Ward was Margaret
16 Laurino's dream job, and, without a shadow of a doubt, she
17 clearly gave it her all; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we commend Alderman Margaret Laurino on her many years of
21 exceptional service to the people of Chicago and offer our best
22 wishes for an enjoyable retirement and continued success in all
23 of her future endeavors; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Margaret Laurino as a symbol of our respect and
3 esteem.