



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 20-2860, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE BURTON “BURT” NATARUS**

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Burton “Burt” Natarus, Alderman of Chicago’s 42nd Ward for 36 years, died on June 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Natarus was born and raised in Wausau, Wisconsin, where his mother and father operated a dry goods store with a lunch counter. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Wisconsin before studying government at Harvard. He also served in the U.S. Army and the Army Reserves; and

**WHEREAS**, Natarus settled on the Near North Side in 1960 and started his life-long love and admiration for those who lived there.

**WHEREAS**, Burt Natarus taught government classes at Loyola University before embarking on his City Council career in 1971 with the first of nine consecutive winning elections; and

**WHEREAS**, Ald. Natarus supported Mayor Harold Washington, one of only a handful of white aldermen to do so, when Washington was elected the city’s first African American mayor in 1983. Natarus played a key role in helping to elect Alderman Eugene Sawyer as the acting Mayor during the marathon City Council meeting that followed Washington’s death; and

**WHEREAS**, Ald. Natarus was Chairman of the Traffic and Safety Committee. He also served on six other committees: Finance; Zoning; Rules and Ethics; License and Consumer Protection; Budget and Government Operations; and Housing and Real Estate. In addition, he was a member of the Chicago Plan Commission, the Central Area Planning Task Force, the Regional Transportation Task Force and the Zoning Reform Commission.

**WHEREAS**, Ald. Natarus was the self-proclaimed “janitor” of the downtown 42nd Ward and known for a series of quirky quality-of-life crusades waged over his tenure. He tackled everything from loud motorcycles, street musicians and blaring car radios to valet parking and tacky store advertising on North Michigan Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, an avid outdoorsman, Natarus enjoyed taking his son on childhood trips rafting down rivers in the western United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Natarus is survived by his son, Michael; daughter, Jill; and grandchildren Jacob and Jenna.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, honors the life and contributions of **THE HONORABLE BURTON “BURT” NATARUS** and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions he has made to the Citizens of Cook County, Illinois; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to the family of **THE HONORABLE BURTON “BURT” NATARUS**.