



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 23-5016, Version: 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE LIFE, LEGACY OF REGGAE LEGEND ASRAT AEMRO SELLISSIE

WHEREAS, Dallol built its profile in professional music by playing venues across across the country and landed its big break when Bob Marley's widow, Rita Marley, invited the band to to play Jamaica on the first anniversary of Bob Marley's death; and

WHEREAS, Dallol linked with Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers; and

WHEREAS, as the backing band for Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers, played on its two most important records--"Conscious Party" in 1988 and "One Bright Day" in 1989, both which won Grammys for best reggae album; and

WHEREAS, Asrat Sellassie was percussionist on both projects, playing bongos, conga, tambourine, cabassa, wood block, keyboards and even adding some background vocals; and

WHEREAS, "Conscious Party" went certified platinum and "One Day" went gold; and

WHEREAS, during the same period, the success of both albums allowed Dallol to tour the world with the Melody Makers; and

WHEREAS, also during the same time, Dallol's band members founded the Wild Hare reggae nightclub across from Wrigley Field in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the Wild Hare provided a venue for new bands to gain visibility and hosted performances by the likes of Rita Marley, Jimmy Cliff, Toots and the Maytals and Shabba Ranks; and

WHEREAS, as backing band for Ziggy Marley, Dallol shared stadiums with Bruce Springsteen, Guns N Roses and INXS while appearing in all parts of Europe, the United States, Canada, Africa and Australia; and

WHEREAS, Asrat Sellassie was known for maintaining a claim and reserved presence and demeanor while managing world tours, a thriving club and family; and

WHEREAS, he was also known as a graceful keyboardist; and

WHEREAS, Asrat Sellassie also featured on vocals and drums/percussion with his other band Gizzae; and

WHEREAS, while primarily staying with her mother in Madison, Wis., Asrat Sellassie's daughter Emayu Edari-Sellassie grew up in the reggae community that Wild Hare nurtured; and

WHEREASs, the Wrigleyville location for Wild Hare closed in 2011, and Asrat Sellassie and his Sollol bandmate Ruphael Woldemariam and two other Dollol band members reopened the club in Lincoln Park the following year; and

WHEREAS, Asrat Sellassie died peacefully in his sleep at his Chicago home on Feb. 23, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Dennis Deer, Cook County Commissioner 2nd District on behalf of President Toni Preckwinkle, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the over five million residents of Cook County, on this date September 21, 2023 do hereby recognized that the Cook County celebrates **Asrat Aemro Sellassie's** life and accomplishments in reggae and that black music genre and the magnanimous legacy he leaves for the reggae community in Cook County the Greater Chicagoland and around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to the family of **Asrat Aemro Sellassie**, and a copy is spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body