Legislation Details

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Title:	PROPOSED RESOLUTION		

INFANT WELFARE SOCIETY

WHEREAS, in 1900, it was recorded that one out of every ten children died before their first birthday. Following the establishment of the Chicago Milk Commission in 1908, concerned by the alarming infant mortality rate, compassionate nurses, physicians and women throughout Chicago came together in 1911 to voluntarily educate mothers about infant care and to examine vulnerable infants via home visits; thus beginning the creation of the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago (IWS); and

WHEREAS, by 1912, IWS performed 40,000 home visits on an annual basis which directly impacted the reduction of infant mortality rates. In 1913, the Infant Welfare Society Auxiliary was formed to support the work of the organization and its mission. The Auxiliary began their work making home visits, raising funds, and sewing clothes. This work is carried on by the Auxiliary's 750 member body to this day with pledges of further fundraising to offset the maintenance of their environment-friendly facility; and

WHEREAS, IWS was one of the first public health organizations in Chicago to institute mental health services in the 1920s and in 1950, was nationally recognized for implementing a preschool program for emotionally disturbed children; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, IWS has expanded its services to include: dental care, gynecological, prenatal, speech pathology, general health, STD education and screening and mental health to name a few, a testament to their commitment to family and community health; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2015, IWS celebrated its 10th Anniversary of its current location: the Angel Harvey Infant Welfare Society of Chicago Community Health Center. Located at 3600 W. Fullerton, IWS continues to provide free services to over 12,000 mothers, infants and families, annually, driven by the same mission and commitment for which they were founded over a hundred years ago; and

WHEREAS, following in the footsteps of the visionaries before her, Executive Director Robin McGinnis, pushes forward with the leadership, foresight and creative programming that has made IWS an invaluable resource for the community for years to come; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate and recognize the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago for its legacy of over 100 years of serving Chicago's under-resourced communities and Ms. Robin McGinnis and staff for their continuous vision of an organization that serves all walks of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and an official copy of the same be presented to Infant Welfare Society of Chicago and Executive Director Robin McGinnis.

Sponsors: LUIS ARROYO JR

Indexes:

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Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
6/10/2015	1	Board of Commissioners	approve	Pass

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