



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE NORWOOD PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District was chartered on August 25, 1941, by Walter E. Schoenfeld and Walter Merkele; and

WHEREAS, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District services were first provided out of Schoenfeld's garage located at 4318 Ottawa, considered to be the first fire station; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, a partially burned Presbyterian Church was relocated to the corner of Montrose and Ottawa to serve in the updating of the first fire house. The new station was built around the Chief's garage with the church bell tower used to call out volunteers for fire alarms; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, an additional fire station was constructed at 7301 W. Lawrence in Harwood Heights; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer fire department was reorganized in 1958 as the Norwood Park Fire Protection District with Tobias Schaden (Norridge), Hubert Huening (Harwood Heights), and Lucien E. Bond (Norwood Park Township) serving as the first trustees; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1959, Walter E. Schoenfeld became the first full-time fire chief; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 1961, the district went to 24-hour-a-day, full-time fire protection; the first full-time firefighters were Ed Jilka, Les Richards, Paul Schoenfeld, and Alan Campbell; and

WHEREAS, full-time paramedic service began in 1974, and the district was considered pioneers in the field of paramedics starting in 1978; and

WHEREAS, a new fire station opened in 1988 at 7447 W. Lawrence, consolidating both stations to better serve the communities; and

WHEREAS, the district has grown to 35 full-time firefighters and paramedics and is led by Fire Chief Kevin J. Stenson; and

WHEREAS, the district's 75th anniversary celebration culminated on August 27, 2016, with the unveiling of a towering granite monument that encases a piece of the World Trade Center wreckage from the 9/11 attacks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor the Norwood Park Fire Protection District as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a commemorative copy of this resolution be tendered to the Norwood Park Fire Protection District.