



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 17-6074, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING HOMER GARY

WHEREAS, Homer Gary is a native of Phoenix City, Alabama, where he graduated from high school; and

WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor's Degree from Alabama State University before joining the Army, and returned to receive a Master of Science in Management of Public Services from DePaul; and

WHEREAS, Homer Gary spent almost four years stationed in Germany, where he was a Medical Corpsman, assisting doctors in various emergency operations; and

WHEREAS, he moved to Chicago in August 1964 and his first job was a Social Studies and Music teacher; and

WHEREAS, among his students during his stint as a teacher were the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Ronald Brown and George Anderson, who was in eighth grade at the time and remembers Homer as a nice and cool fella; and

WHEREAS, after that Homer went to work for the Chicago Transit Authority. That's when a friend who worked at the Chicago Housing Authority encouraged him to apply for the position of Community and Internal Relations Aide in the Tenant Relations Department.

WHEREAS, his friend told him that the Chicago Housing Authority needed a person like him, he thought about it and applied for the job; and

WHEREAS, he got the job and started work on October 10th 1966, and nineteen day later he married his wife Yvette and has been with them both for 51 years; and

WHEREAS, while at the Chicago Housing Authority Homer worked in three different departments, he served as a Management Aide, Building Inspector and Building Inspector Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, Homer has seen the Chicago Housing Authority at its worst, and at its best. When crime has ran rampant, when buildings were infested with rats, elevators didn't work and the buildings didn't have any heat; and

WHEREAS, he has also seen improvement come at a break neck pace. He says he admires the Chicago Housing Authority's effort in making public housing better; and

WHEREAS, Homer worked at Cabrini Green housing in 1970, and was recognized regularly by residents and officials for effectively handling acute situations involving residents under tense circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Homer was known for promoting peace and tranquility; and

WHEREAS, seeing roughly fifteen Chief Executive Officers (CEO) in his 51 years, his favorites are Terry Peterson and Eugene Jones, Jr. which he liked their personalities and their personal contact with people; and

WHEREAS, Homer served as a mentor for many current Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) employees, including his

current Supervisor Bryce White; and

WHEREAS, Bryce White said he views Homer as a father figure, dedicated, passionate about helping others achieve their goals; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2017 after 51 years with the Chicago Housing Authority, Homer will retire as a Relocation Specialist in the Resident Service Division; and

WHEREAS, Homer is a member of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 73; and

WHEREAS, on retirement, he said the timing is good, states that the Chicago Housing Authority has been good to him, and there are things he would like to do with his wife Yvette whom he calls a “sweet wife” and his daughter, Celeste.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Board of Commissioners, on behalf of more than 5.2 million residents of Cook County, do hereby congratulate Homer Gary on his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceeding of this Honorable Body to Home Gary.