



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 19-1825, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING DR. LENA J. McLIN

As Paul the Apostle, teaches about individual responsibility he says these words in Ephesians 5:19, *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”*

WHEREAS, Dr. Lena J. McLin was born September 5, 1928 in Atlanta, Georgia, to the union of Benjamin J. Johnson and Bernice Dorsey. Where Dr. McLin's close childhood friends were Martin Luther King, Jr. and his sister Christine King Farris; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lena J. McLin at the tender age of five, was sent to Chicago to live with her uncle, Thomas A. Dorsey, better known as the father of gospel music; where she attended McCosh Elementary School and served as a young accompanist for her uncle's famed Pilgrim Baptist Church choir; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lena J. McLin, moved back to Atlanta, Georgia and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1947, then enrolled at Spelman College, and earned her Bachelor of Music degree in 1951. She later returned to Chicago and studied at the American Conservatory of Music, Roosevelt University, and Chicago State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lena J. McLin, began her teaching career at Julius H. Hess Upper Grade Center in 1959. She transferred to Hubbard High School in 1960. Moving forward she founded “The McLin Ensemble” and the “McLin Opera Company”. She went on to teach at John Marshall Harlan High School from 1963 to 1970, leaving to go teach at the new Kenwood Academy. During her tenure at Kenwood Academy, Dr. McLin created a pilot curriculum that included all genres of music, from classical to popular, which helped to launch the careers of Chaka Khan, Mark Rucker, Nicole Heaston Lane; jazz singers Maggie Brown and Tammy McCann; Tony Award and Emmy Award winner Mandy Patinkin; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL LOWRY, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER of the 3rd DISTRICT, do hereby stand, and salute the gifted work of Dr. Lena J. McLin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution will be presented to the family of Dr. Lena J. McLin.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution will be filed within the **Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd District**.