



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 19-4019, **Version:** 1

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### **HONORING THE HISTORIC ZIMMER HARDWARE FOR THIER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PALATINE COMMUNITY**

**WHEREAS,** Zimmer Hardware was founded by Albert Zimmer in 1883; and

**WHEREAS,** Albert Zimmer was born in the Village of Wheeling in 1856; and

**WHEREAS,** Albert Zimmer apprenticed as a Tinsmith; and

**WHEREAS,** Zimmer Hardware moved from its original location at the corner of Bothwell and Slade streets in downtown Palatine to its ultimate location on Brockway Street; and

**WHEREAS,** Albert Zimmer and his family lived in an apartment above the hardware store; and

**WHEREAS,** after Albert's death, his stepdaughter Lydia Wienecke and her nephew Howard Freeman took over ownership of the hardware store; and

**WHEREAS,** the Zimmer family continued to operate the store until 1972; and

**WHEREAS,** Zimmer Hardware prided itself as a local, hometown hardware store with a wide variety of products for all types of do-it-yourself projects; and

**WHEREAS,** Zimmer Hardware was known for narrow aisles with hardware items from floor to ceiling and two iconic, if not functioning, gumball machines at the front entrance; and

**WHEREAS,** in addition to typical hardware store offerings, Zimmer Hardware offered special services such as glass and acrylic cutting, glass repair, screen repair, key cutting and pet specialty products; and

**WHEREAS,** Zimmer Hardware carved out its own niche in a world dominated by big box retail stores thanks to the personal service they provided; and

**WHEREAS,** Zimmer Hardware was named one of the "Retailers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century" by the Illinois Retail Merchants Association in 2000; and

**WHEREAS,** Zimmer Hardware was a staple in the neighborhood, often assisting generations of families; and

**WHEREAS,** Zimmer Hardware was lauded by customers as having friendly staff, attentive customer service, extensive product knowledge and a wide variety of home improvement items; and

**WHEREAS,** according to the Palatine Historical Society, Zimmer Hardware was the oldest continuous business in the Village of Palatine; and

**WHEREAS,** Zimmer Hardware operated for 136 years in the community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor Zimmer

Hardware for their contributions to the Palatine community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of the Resolution be tendered to the Zimmer family as a means of communicating our thanks and well wishes.