



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 19-5758, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S RUDY LOZANO BRANCH LIBRARY

WHEREAS, based in the Pilsen neighborhood, Rudy Lozano Branch Library opened its doors to the public on September 7, 1989; and

WHEREAS, community-led efforts drove the establishment of the library in a time when Pilsen lacked a centralized library branch; and

WHEREAS, during the 1960s, at a time when the Mexican population was growing in the area, there was only a “book mobile” that would traverse the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, a Pilsen Library Committee was formed in 1980 by thirteen neighborhood residents who spearheaded the efforts to create a central library; and

WHEREAS, the Committee's efforts ultimately led to the groundbreaking of the \$4.5 million library in 1985;

WHEREAS, the new location consolidated materials from local social service agencies El Centro de La Causa and Gad's Hill, as well as Pilsen Library Branch; and

WHEREAS, the Committee collected suggestions for the public on the naming of the library, and voted on Rudy Lozano, named after the influential community organizer who was tragically killed in 1983; and

WHEREAS, since its grand opening in 1989, the Rudy Lozano Library Branch has played a pivotal role as a community resource center not only for local neighborhood residents but for library patrons throughout Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the Pilsen Library Committee was for the library to be physically located in the neighborhood's center so that it was walking distance for residents; and

WHEREAS, the library houses the largest Spanish language collection in the Midwest and has hosted events with authors from throughout the U.S. and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, the focus of the literature at the library is for, by, and about people with Latin American descent, and includes over 10,000 books donated by the Mexican government; and

WHEREAS, renowned for its diverse programming and the cultural and social services it provides, the Rudy Lozano Branch Library has received awards from the Chicago Community Trust for programs like *Blue Skies for Library Kids*; and

WHEREAS, the Knight Moves Chess Club, another Rudy Lozano program, has been among its most successful programs, leading youth to win local and national championships and even facilitating their participation in tournaments in México; and

WHEREAS, the Rudy Lozano Library Branch remains an important resource for Chicago's Latino and Spanish-speaking community as libraries from throughout the city continue to refer patrons there, despite the population changes the community currently faces with gentrification; and

WHEREAS, in its thirty years of serving the community, the Rudy Lozano Library Branch has been a reflection of the diversity of the Mexican population in Chicago.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate Rudy Lozano Library Branch on their 30th anniversary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Hector Hernández, branch manager of the Rudy Lozano Library Branch, and to the library itself as a symbol of recognition for its contributions to setting a model in engaging Chicago's Spanish-speaking community with the Chicago Public Library.