City of Chicago

R2014-443

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 6/25/2014

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Type: Resolution

Title: Calling for the renaming of "Clarence F. Buckingham Memorial Fountain" to "Jane M. Byrne Plaza"

Committee(s) Assignment: Committee on Finance

Susana A. Mendoza
Clerk

Finance

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Jane Margaret Burke was born in Chicago on May 24, 1934 to Edward and Katherine Burke; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, she married William P. Byrne, a U.S. Marine aviator, who was killed in a plane crash in 1959; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Jane M. Byrne married Jay McMullen, to whom she remained wed until his death on March 18, 1992; and

WHEREAS, in 1968 Jane M. Byrne was appointed commissioner of the Department of Consumer Sales, Weights, and Measures by Mayor Richard J. Daley and thus became the first woman cabinet member in the history of the city; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1979, Jane M. Byrne became the first woman elected mayor of Chicago, receiving 82 percent of the vote over Republican Wallace Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jane M. Byrne began the expansion of O'Hare International Airport, which is largely recognized as one of her most important achievements; and

WHEREAS, the Taste of Chicago began during Jane M. Byrne's tenure as Mayor, as did announcement of the Orange Line project and the opening of a rapid transit extension to O'Hare International Airport; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jane M. Byrne had a vision for the redevelopment of Navy Pier and the creation of the Museum Campus; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jane M. Byrne attracted national publicity and increased her popularity among Chicagoans by moving into the Cabrini Green public housing project in 1981, thereby drawing attention to the deteriorated public housing conditions and helping to improve city services to the area; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jane M. Byrne was the first Chicago mayor to proclaim "Gay Pride Parade Day in Chicago," which was first designated on June 28, 1981; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago intends to designate a suitable commemoration to honor Jane M. Byrne in order to ensure that the legacy of our city's first woman mayor will never be forgotten; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the plaza on which the Clarence F. Buckingham Memorial Fountain sits is hereby renamed the "Jane M. Byrne Plaza" in recognition of the achievements of Jane M. Byrne, and as a symbol of the esteem in which Jane M. Byrne is held by the Mayor, the City Council and the residents of Chicago.

Edward M. Burke, Alderman, 14th Ward