

A resolution



adopted by The Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Park District,

Presented by Michael P. Kelly, General Superintendent & CEO on February 11, 2015

WHEREAS, Timothy J. Mitchell served as General Superintendent & CEO of the Chicago Park District from 2004 to 2011, working closely with his staff, the Board of Commissioners, federal, state and local government, anyone and everyone who ever desired to participate in the guidance of the Park District and overseeing an annual budget in excess of \$400 million and more than 3,000 employees; and

WHEREAS, Mitchell was a lifelong Chicago resident, born Jan. 17, 1965 and raised in the Mount Greenwood neighborhood. He attended Brother Rice High School and earned a degree in Political Science from Loyola University, further igniting his interests in public service and policy; and

WHEREAS, Mitchell began his career in the Illinois States Attorney's Office and thereafter held numerous posts throughout the Richard M. Daley administration. Joining the City in 1989 as Managing Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, he went on to serve as commissioner of the Department of General Services and as a liaison between City Hall and its sister agencies. In 1994, he received the city's prestigious Kathy Osterman Award for outstanding public service; and

WHEREAS, as General Superintendent and CEO, Mitchell implemented new programming, committees and playground standards to provide an inclusive park system for patrons, ensuring that every Chicagoan, regardless of physical or cognitive abilities, could participate in park programs and events throughout the city. His efforts led to the removal of architectural barriers obstructing access to park programs and facilities; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Mitchell and his administration focused on providing affordable recreational opportunities and promoting healthier lifestyles through physical activity by improving numerous playground facilities, fitness centers, athletic fields and recreation programs across the city; and

WHEREAS, under Superintendent Mitchell's leadership, the Chicago Park District worked creatively to increase park land and open space by more than 1,000 acres, including turning Northerly Island, the site of a former airport, into a 78-acre nature park offering winding paths amid native plantings, birds and other wildlife with spectacular views of Lake Michigan and the city's skyline; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Mitchell successfully spearheaded a campaign to save Lake Michigan from BP Whiting Refinery's proposed expansion. More than 75,000 signatures were

collected and presented to Indiana State legislators, and as a result, BP Amoco pledged not to increase toxic dumping in Lake Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Mitchell worked to establish such festivals as Lollapalooza, Pitchfork, the Gay Games VII and worked closely with the 2016 Chicago Olympic Organizing Committee to prepare an Olympic bid, the first of its kind for Chicago; and

WHEREAS, even when not “at work” Mitchell invested his time and talent in his community as a board member of Special Children’s Charities, the City Parks Alliance, the Parkways Foundation, Lincoln Park Zoo, Art Institute of Chicago, After School Matters, the Boys and Girls Town of Chicago, Gateway Green, Ravenswood Park Townhome Association, and Neighborspace, among others. Mitchell was elected World Commissioner representing North America for the International Federation of Parks and Recreation and national co-chairman of the National Recreation and Parks Association.

WHEREAS, Mitchell passed away at his home in the Andersonville community December 3rd, 2014 and will be fondly remembered as a friend, mentor, leader, colleague, conservationist, environmentalist, humanitarian, student of political science and defender of the notion that public service requires passion, sacrifice and innovation; then, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners and the General Superintendent, extend our heartfelt gratitude to Timothy J. Mitchell for his years of dedication to public service and our park family and that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to his family this 11th day of February, 2015.