

# *A resolution*



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

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

**WHEREAS**, The increasing unaffordability of life in Chicago for many of our residents illustrates the rampant wage inequality that President Barack Obama has described as "the defining issue of our time"; and

**WHEREAS**, More than 30 percent of Chicago workers make \$13.00 per hour or less — the median age of these workers is 33, two-thirds are over the age of 25, and a disproportionate share are women and/or minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, In Chicago, rent as a percentage of income has risen from a historical average of 21 percent to 31 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, Chicagoland is the only metropolitan region in Illinois that ranks above the national average in cost-of-living expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, Research on previous minimum wage increases shows that raising the minimum wage does not adversely affect employment and prices — to the contrary, according to the Economic Policy Institute, an increased wage actually helps the economy grow; and

**WHEREAS**, In light of the United States Congress's persistent failure to address this issue, it is time for cities and states to take the lead in lifting families out of poverty and stimulating the economy by raising the minimum wage; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Emanuel first addressed the problem of insufficient wages through Executive Order # 2014-1, raising the minimum wage of City Contractors and City Concessionaires to \$13.00 per hour; and

**WHEREAS**, Raising the minimum wage for Park District contractors and holders of Park District concessions, as further described in Exhibit A, herein, will help build public consensus around the principle that every worker across the state deserves an adequate wage, then, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners and the General Superintendent, adopt the essential terms and provisions of Mayor Emanuel's executive order and hereby raise the minimum wage to \$13.00 per hour for Park District Contractors and holders of Park District Concessionaires.