

RESOLUTION RE: THE 2002-2003 SPECIAL OLYMPICS

WHEREAS, on July 20, 1968, the Chicago Park District and the Kennedy Foundation held the First International Special Olympics World Games in Soldier Field, involving more than 1,000 athletes from 26 states and Canada, who competed in athletics, floor hockey, and aquatics; and

WHEREAS, the Special Olympics has provided sports competition and opportunities for socialization for special needs students throughout the world for 35 years; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Public Schools is a partner with the Chicago Park District and the Special Children's Charities offering Special Olympics training and competition in 22 sports and events; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Public Schools students from the Northside Learning Center and Walter Payton College Prep were exemplary in their Special Olympics participation and achievement; and

WHEREAS, Miguel Abonce, Andrew Adachukwu, Roberto Brzenk, David Drinkwater, Cortez Hope, James Paek, Angel Robles, William Rodriguez, and Timothy Stark are members of the 2002-2003 Northside Learning Center Huskies I Special Olympics Basketball Team; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Coach Stephen Schlichting and Coach Tomas Rodriguez, Jr., the Northside Learning Center Huskies I Special Olympics Basketball Team finished the 2002-2003 basketball season by winning a gold medal for first place in the Special Olympics Illinois District Basketball Tournament held on January 17, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Northside Learning Center Huskies I Special Olympics Basketball Team represented Special Olympics Chicago in the Special Olympics Illinois Statewide Basketball Tournament on March 14-16, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Walter Payton High School Special Olympics athletes Justin Davis and Adam Hines, under the direction of coach Jean J. Gregoire, Jr., finished the 2002-2003 Powerlifting season by winning gold medals for first place in the Special Olympics Chicago Powerlifting Tournament held February 15, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the courage, skill and good sportsmanship exhibited by each team member earned the admiration of all and reflected positively on Northside Learning Center and Payton College Prep, the school communities, and the city at large.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 25th day of June 2003, do hereby commend the athletes and their coaches for their memorable achievements of this year, and extend the Board's best wishes for continued success in Special Olympics competition. Congratulations are also extended to the parents of these students for their supportive role in the students' accomplishments.