

July 24, 2025

**RESOLUTION HONORING FRANK NILES THOMAS
FOR HIS SERVICE AS A BOARD MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

WHEREAS, Frank Niles Thomas served with commitment and distinction as a Member of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, offering his time, insight, and leadership to support the students, families, and educators of Chicago Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas is a proud lifelong Chicagoan and veteran of the United States Air Force, with more than 40 years of experience spanning city government, organized labor, environmental advocacy, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Chicago Vocational High School, Mr. Thomas furthered his education at the City Colleges of Chicago and Roosevelt University, consistently demonstrating his commitment to lifelong learning and public service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas enhanced environmental projects across the city, including his work with the Southeast Chicago Development Commission and as plant manager at Chicago Recycling Works. As an employee of Waste Management, he played a key role in public communications for the Joliet Arsenal Landfill project in Will County—one of the most significant environmental initiatives in the region; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas served with distinction as the 21st Ward superintendent for the City of Chicago's Department of Streets and Sanitation for over a decade, overseeing refuse removal and critical municipal operations for tens of thousands of residents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas devoted his time and talents to improving public education, serving as chairman of the Local School Council at Edward F. Dunne Elementary School. While in that role, he co-founded a mentoring program to develop leadership skills among students attending this predominantly African-American school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas is widely respected in labor and political circles as a grassroots organizer and effective advocate for working families. His deep experience navigating relationships between labor and management has supported good faith bargaining and strengthened the voice of labor across multiple sectors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas is the proud father of six children, including four graduates of Chicago Public Schools, and has consistently grounded his public service in a commitment to family, community, and equity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas brought this wealth of experience, perspective, and passion to his role on the Chicago Board of Education, where he played a key role during a period of significant structural transition and remained a steadfast advocate for students and communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas officially resigned from the Board on June 12, 2025, concluding his service with the same sense of purpose and dedication that has defined his lifelong career in public service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board President and Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, this 24th day of July 2025, formally recognize and express our deepest gratitude to Frank Niles Thomas for his service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the students and communities of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy be presented to Frank Niles Thomas as a token of our appreciation and respect.