

November 15, 2006

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING GARY C. COMER

WHEREAS, Gary C. Comer passed away on October 4, 2006, and is survived by his wife Frances, daughter, Stephanie and son Guy and his three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Gary C. Comer was born and raised on the south side of Chicago, and attended Paul Revere Elementary School. Mr. Comer was an avid sailor and in 1962 he started a mail order sailing equipment business which grew into the successful Lands' End Company. In 1978, Mr. Comer moved his warehouse and phone operations for the company to Dodgeville Wisconsin, but maintained close ties to the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Gary C. Comer, is best known for his many philanthropic contributions which focused on children and children's health and included a series of gifts to the University of Chicago totaling more than \$84 million dollars leading to the creation and expansion of the Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago; and launched the Comer Pediatric Mobil Care Program, run by University physicians bringing comprehensive primary and preventive health care to students at south side public schools; and

WHEREAS, Gary C. Comer was also committed to the betterment of children's lives through education. To that end, Mr. Comer, was a generous contributor to his alma mater, the Paul Revere School and its community where he helped fund, among other things, the school's computer wiring, teacher training, uniforms, and created a web site for the students at the school, so that they could follow his private ship on its explorations around the world; and

WHEREAS, Gary C. Comer would later pledge more than \$8 million dollars to help open a new school on the west side in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago – the San Miguel Gary Comer Campus, which currently serves 5th to 8th grade students.

WHEREAS, Gary C. Comer's commitment and tireless efforts on behalf of children, especially Chicago Public School students, has been invaluable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, that the Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 15th Day of November 2006 do hereby extend to the family of Gary C. Comer our deepest sympathy, and offer to his family our gratitude for his many contributions to the City of Chicago.