

A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on JANUARY 21, 2015

Whereas , Sister Cities International is a nonpartisan national membership organization for cities around the world that unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers to promote world peace through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Sister Cities International seeks to promote global peace and prosperity by providing private citizens from communities around the world, and the leaders of the cities in which they live, with an opportunity to meet face-to-face to celebrate their respective cultures, to appreciate their differences, and to develop mutual understanding, friendships and long-term partnerships to reduce international conflict and secure global prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Since 1960, when Chicago signed its first Sister Cities agreement, Chicago Sister Cities International has established official relationships with 28 Sister Cities in almost every region of the world. Today, Chicago Sister Cities International is the most active Sister Cities Organization in the world; and

WHEREAS, The people-to-people and community relationships formed through the Sister Cities network have produced mutually beneficial city-to-city ties resulting in increased international trade, economic development, tourism, cultural exchanges, and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Chicago's Sister Cities relationship with the City of Prague in the Czech Republic; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is proud of the Sister City partnership it has formed with the City of Prague, and of its long history of friendship and cooperation with the people of the Czech Republic; and

WHEREAS, Former Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak was of Czech heritage, and has a school named after him in the City of Prague. Mayor Cermak's desk at Chicago's City Hall is still used today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and serves as a daily reminder of the important role played in the history of our great City by persons of Czech descent; and

WHEREAS, The city-to-city relationships inspired by Sister Cities International have led to the development of student exchange programs that allow young people to experience life and culture in a different country. A popular and highly successful student exchange program is currently in place between Chicago's Walter Payton College Preparatory High School and Prague's Gymnázium Nad Alejí; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, Chicago has benefitted from the many vital contributions that the Czech community has made to the cultural, civic and economic life of our City; and

WHEREAS, Chicagoans have always been cognizant of the similarities between Chicago and Prague. Both cities are vibrant cultural designations known for the hospitality, friendliness and warmth of their people; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago looks forward to its own continued participation in Sister Cities International, and to renewing and strengthening Chicago's relationship with the City of Prague and its people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-first day of January, 2015, do hereby commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Chicago's Sister City relationship with the City of Prague in the Czech Republic; acknowledge the many benefits that this productive relationship has reaped for the people of Chicago; express our desire to continue this relationship; and extend to the City of Prague, and to its people, our best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to The Honorable Borek Lizec, Consul General, Consulate General of the Czech Republic, for transmittal to The Honorable Mayor of Prague Adriana Krnacova.



Ral Emanuel

MAYOR

Susma A. Mendez

CITY CLERK