

RESOLUTION NO. 8492

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2016, Jesse H. Ruiz was appointed by the Chicago Park District Board as a Commissioner of the Public Building Commission of Chicago. Mr. Ruiz distinguished himself as a member of the PBC Board during his tenure as the President of the Chicago Park District; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as President of the Chicago Park District, Jesse H. Ruiz is a partner at the law firm of Drinker Biddle & Reath and has been named among the most influential minority lawyers in Chicago. He has been recognized for his commitment to pro bono legal service by the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services and he co-founded his firm's legal clinic which provides pro bono legal services to clients who could not otherwise obtain legal services. He is past President of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, and past Chairman of the Hispanic Lawyers Scholarship Fund of Illinois and the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms. He has been recognized by *Latino Leaders* magazine as a Top Latino Lawyer and by *Diversity and the Bar* magazine as one of its 15 Rainmakers Who Always Shine; and

WHEREAS, Jesse H. Ruiz has focused his civic involvement in public education for many years, formerly serving as Vice President of the Chicago Board of Education and as Interim CEO of the Chicago Public Schools. He served on the U.S. Department of Education Equity and Excellence Commission. He also served as Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education on the Chicago Public Schools Desegregation Monitoring Commission; and

WHEREAS, Jesse H. Ruiz's public service roles have deep roots in Chicago, and he always gives back to his community. He has provided pro bono legal services to nonprofit organizations such as Erie Neighborhood House. He received the Barristers Philanthropic Award from Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth for his work in education advocacy and youth mentoring. He currently serves on the board of the Chicago Legal Clinic and is First Vice President of the Chicago Bar



Association, Vice Chair General Counsel at the Metropolitan Planning Council, and General Trustee at Rush University Medical Center, and he serves on several other charitable boards; and

WHEREAS, as President of the Chicago Park District, numerous significant accomplishments have been achieved in partnership with the Public Building Commission including the ‘Save Chicago’s Treasures’ initiative, to rehabilitate historic recreational facilities throughout the city. President Ruiz has made invaluable contributions to the Public Building Commission to facilitate its mission of providing sustainable facilities to improve the quality of life for the residents of the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Jesse H. Ruiz is the proud son of Mexican immigrants, raised in the far south side Roseland neighborhood of Chicago. He received his J.D. from The University of Chicago Law School, where he served as an editor of the University of Chicago Law School Roundtable and studied under then-professors Barack Obama and Elena Kagan. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Jesse H. Ruiz is hereby commended by the Chairman, members of the Board of Commissioners and the Executive Director of the Commission for his leadership and dedicated service to the Public Building Commission and the residents of the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to present an appropriate copy of this resolution to Jesse H. Ruiz to commemorate his service as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Building Commission of Chicago.