

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-R-0016**

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S EFFORTS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY AND OTHER POLLINATORS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE MAYORS' MONARCH PLEDGE**

WHEREAS, the West Chicago City Code allows native landscaping, which reduces storm water runoff; and,

WHEREAS, the City of West Chicago does not use pesticides for maintaining City-owned open spaces; and,

WHEREAS, the City of West Chicago, has long been on the monarch butterflies' annual migration route of thousands of miles from Mexico to Canada; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois designated the iconic monarch butterfly as the official state insect in 1975 as the result of lobbying by Illinois schoolchildren; and,

WHEREAS, native milkweeds are the sole source of food for monarch caterpillars; and,

WHEREAS, scientific studies point to the rapid decline of the monarch butterfly due to the loss of milkweed habitat needed to lay their eggs and for their caterpillars to eat, resulting from development, land management practices, and chemically-aided agriculture in the United States and Canada; and,

WHEREAS, the decline of pollinators, including the North American monarch, which serves as an iconic species, has potential negative consequences for natural ecosystems as well as for human food production, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently studying the species to determine if it should be listed under the Endangered Species Act; and,

WHEREAS, on a national level, conservation organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have undertaken efforts to restore and enhance milkweeds and other nectar-producing plants to help restore monarch habitat in open spaces, suburban and urban gardens, and other locations; and,

WHEREAS, because there are many different species of milkweed in the U.S., it is important to recognize that only native milkweed species are vital to the restoration and survival of the monarch habitat in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, the Conservation Foundation, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Greater DuPage Wild Ones, and River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club are encouraging communities to plant native milkweed and valuable nectar plants where appropriate; and,

WHEREAS, through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, cities and municipalities are committing to create habitat and educate citizens about how they can make a difference at home; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of West Chicago in regular session assembled, as follows:

- (1) To support the preservation of the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators in the Midwest.
- (2) To authorize the Mayor to sign and submit the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge (which is an online document).

APPROVED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.

AYES: 10

NAYS: 0

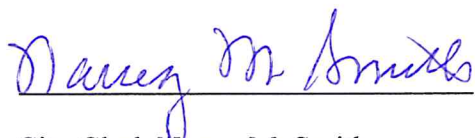
ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 3



Mayor Ruben Pineda

ATTEST:



City Clerk Nancy M. Smith

