



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT INTRODUCES RESOLUTION TO HONOR POLISH HERITAGE MONTH**

*City recognizes many and substantial contributions made by Polish Americans in the development of Chicago*

CHICAGO—Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot today introduced a resolution honoring Polish Heritage in the City of Chicago during the month of October, an observance that is honored throughout other states and by the nation. The month serves as a celebration of Polish history, culture and pride, all of which have played a large role in shaping Chicago to become the great city it is today.

“Chicago is, and will continue to be a world-class city because its history was forged by the visions and perspectives of many different people, some that migrated thousands of miles across the globe to call this city home,” said Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot. “We understand that in order to create and maintain a world-class city, we must have input from people from around the world which is why Chicago has always, and will always, continue to be a welcoming city.”

The resolution recognizes the impact of Polish Americans on the City of Chicago's development since the late 1860s when the first Polish American community appeared in Chicago and established St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish. The Polish community grew exponentially throughout Chicago over the next several years, as immigrants sought new beginnings after leaving the economic and political hardships of their home.

In 1960, Chicago made Warsaw its first Sister City, and it still serves as one of Chicago's 28 Sister Cities today. Chicago's history and cultural wealth have been greatly shaped and enriched by Polish-Americans' commitment to making Chicago a better city in which to live, work and raise families. The city's Polish heritage truly is its past, present and future.

Today, the City of Chicago still maintains a large Polish presence, and its metropolitan area is home to over 1.9 million people of Polish descent, making it the largest, most established Polish community in the world outside of Poland. The



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presence of the large population is felt in a number of influential organizations and seen throughout all of Chicago on street signs, at parks and at schools.

Though Chicago will honor Polish Heritage Month in October, Polish heritage is celebrated all year with events like Casimir Pulaski Day in March, the parade for Polish Constitution Day in May, and Taste of Polonia in the late summer.

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