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TRANSPORTATION 43
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & ENERGY
(VICE-CHAIRMAN)
BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEES AND RULES
FINANCE
IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS
PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY
POLICE AND FIRE
PUBLIC SAFETY
ZONING, LANDMARK, AND BUILDING
STANDARDS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Deirdre Graziano was born on July 17, 1945, the daughter of Christine Nugent and Willy Quirk, and grew up with her three sisters in West Garfield Park, attending St. Mel's Elementary, Trinity High, and Loyola University; and

WHEREAS, Deirdre moved to Lincoln Park in the 43rd Ward with her husband Tom in 1967 and spent nearly her entire adult life there, and is a longtime resident and advocate for the Lincoln Park area; and

WHEREAS, Deirdre was a founding member of the Park West Cooperative Nursery School, providing childcare in the 43rd Ward community, while also ultimately achieving a PhD in Early Childhood Education; and

WHEREAS, Deirdre tirelessly devoted time to her advocacy, working in family literacy centers in Uptown, assisting in the creation of a Nature Room at Chicago's juvenile court, assisting teenage moms at a treatment center, and advocating for affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, Deirdre Graziano served as vice-president of the Lincoln Central Association, where she helped to shepherd the neighborhood, improving access to affordable housing while also preserving the architectural heritage of Central Lincoln Park; and

WHEREAS, Deirdre was instrumental in the creation of Lincoln Central Park at the northwest corner of Dickens, Lincoln, and Cleveland Avenues, including its beautiful fountain and plantings, which she, her husband Tom, and others have long helped to maintain and which today stand as a lasting gift to the neighborhood she loved; and

WHEREAS, Deirdre Graziano passed away on May 19, 2026, and is survived by Tom, her three children, Kristin, Megan, and Tony, and seven grandchildren, and is remembered by many loving family members, friends, neighbors, and all who were touched by her lifelong commitment to nature and community; and

WHEREAS, Deirdre Graziano will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, unwavering dedication to her family and community, and her belief that lasting change begins with neighbors working together. Through her leadership, mentorship, and quiet determination, she inspired generations of residents to care for one another and for the neighborhood she so deeply loved; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the park located at the northwest corner of Dickens, Lincoln, and Cleveland Avenues in Lincoln Park, known today as "Lincoln Central Park" and maintained by the Chicago Department of Transportation, be known as 'Deirdre's Garden,' ensuring that future generations recognize and celebrate Deirdre Graziano's extraordinary contributions to the Lincoln Park community, and as a symbol of the esteem in which Deirdre Graziano is held by the Mayor, the City Council, and the residents of Chicago.

Alderman Timmy Knudsen, 43rd Ward