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Fred Bilotto, Mayor

PROCLAMATION HONORING FORMER MAYOR RICHARD W. WITHERS

Blue Island City Council - February 14, 2023

WHEREAS, Richard W. Withers was born on June 12, 1931 in Blue Island to Leona (née Heintz) and Robert L. Withers, was raised in Blue Island, and graduated from Blue Island Community (now Eisenhower) High School in 1949, and

WHEREAS, During the Korean Conflict, Withers served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and was awarded a Bronze Star, spending 15 months in Korea, returning to Blue Island early in 1953, and

WHEREAS, Richard W. Withers married Shirley Jean Faden at Grace Methodist Church in September of 1954, and in 1960 the couple purchased the house at 12836 Highland Avenue, where they lived with their family for the next three decades, and

WHEREAS, Richard W. Withers served as 4th Ward Alderman from 1963-1965, and

WHEREAS, Richard W. Withers was elected as Mayor of Blue Island in 1965, a position he served in until 1977, and

WHEREAS, Richard W. Withers' tenure as Mayor included multiple advancements and achievements for the City including; expanding park space, the dedication of the new Blue Island Public Library and Blue Island Police Station, the development of Blue Cap to serve those with developmental disabilities, multiple infrastructure improvements on Western Avenue, as well as the early phases of acquiring land that would later become the John D. Rita Recreation Center.

THEREFORE, I, Mayor Fred Bilotto, on behalf of the citizens of Blue Island, do hereby recognize and honor Richard W. Withers for his many years of service to his country and to our City and further recognize that Mayor Withers made significant and meaningful contributions to the City of Blue Island.

Fred Bilotto, Mayor

2/14/23

DATE