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Doc#: 1009929004 Fee: \$44.00
Eugene "Gene" Moore
Cook County Recorder of Deeds
Date: 04/09/2010 10:08 AM Pg: 1 of 5

The following is said ordinance as passed:

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Municipal Code of Chicago (the "Municipal Code"), §§ 2-120-130 through -690, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the "Commission") has determined that the following building associated with the Chicago Black Renaissance Literary Movement is individually worthy of Chicago landmark designation: the Lorraine Hansberry House, 6140 South Rhodes Avenue (the "Building"), as more precisely

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Commission on Chicago Landmarks
33 North LaSalle, Room 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60602

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described in Exhibit 1 attached hereto and incorporated herein, meets three criteria for landmark designation as set forth in § 2-120-620 (1), (3) and (6) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, Through its associations with nationally prominent playwright Lorraine Hansberry, the Building is associated with the Chicago Black Renaissance, the literary movement that emerged from the surge of artistic expression, community organizing, and social activity in Chicago's African-American community from the 1930s through the 1950s in the pre-Civil Rights years. Through the tumultuous years of the Depression, World War II, and a second "Great Migration" of African-Americans to an almost completely segregated Chicago, this interconnected effort by artists, writers, scholars, and activists promoted the study of black history, art and politics, to inform social protest against racism and discrimination in the years leading up to the 1960s Civil Rights movement. During this dynamic era, Chicago was a national center of urban African-American art, blues and jazz, dance, theater, poetry and fiction; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Black Renaissance literary movement was born of diverse creative and intellectual forces in Chicago's African-American community, and yielded such acclaimed 20th-century writers as Richard Wright (1908 -- 1960), Gwendolyn Brooks (1917 -- 2000), and Lorraine Hansberry (1930 -- 1965). These pioneering writers drew from their personal experiences and observations in Chicago and elsewhere to illuminate the dehumanizing effects of racial prejudice. Their eloquent and powerful novels, poems, and plays vividly depicted the spectrum of racism against African-Americans during the Jim Crow era through the years leading up to the modern Civil Rights movement -- ranging from wide-spread segregation and institutionalized discrimination to glaring acts of brutality and violence; and

WHEREAS, The Building, purchased in 1937 by Carl Hansberry, the father of playwright Lorraine Hansberry, was the subject of a three-year-long legal battle challenging the enforceability of racially restrictive covenants that effectively sanctioned discrimination in Chicago's segregated neighborhoods. With the assistance of the Chicago branch of the NAACP and attorney Earl B. Dickerson, Hansberry appealed the case to the United States Supreme Court. The 1940 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Hansberry v. Lee* represented an important battle to outlaw racially discriminatory housing covenants; and

WHEREAS, Lorraine Hansberry's groundbreaking play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, was the first drama by an African-American woman to be produced on Broadway. It grappled with themes of the Chicago Black Renaissance literary movement and drew directly from Hansberry's own childhood experiences in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Hansberry's pioneering dramas forced the American stage to a new level of excellence and honesty. Her strident commitment to gaining justice for people of African descent, shaped by her family's direct efforts to combat institutional racism and segregation, heralded the next major African-American literary movement, the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, For its associations with the Chicago Black Renaissance literary movement and the iconic 20th-century playwright Lorraine Hansberry who emerged as part of the movement, the Building possesses exceptional historic and cultural significance; and

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WHEREAS, The Building demonstrates and commemorates the Chicago Black Renaissance literary movement, the interconnected effort by artists, writers, scholars, and activists to promote the study of black history, art and politics, to inform social protest against racism and discrimination in the years leading to the modern Civil Rights era. During this dynamic era, Chicago was a national center of urban African-American art, blues and jazz, dance, theater, poetry and fiction; and

WHEREAS, The Building retains more than sufficient physical integrity to express its "historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value" as required by § 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, through its site, context, and overall design quality. The Building retains the majority of its historic materials, design, and detailing to convey its architectural and historic values; now, therefore,

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Chicago:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are expressly incorporated in and made a part of this ordinance as though fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. The Building is hereby individually designated as a Chicago landmark in accordance with the provisions of the Landmarks ordinance and the rules and regulations adopted by the Commission.

SECTION 3. The significant historical and architectural features of the Building are all exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the Building.

SECTION 4. The Commission is hereby directed to create a suitable plaque appropriately identifying said landmark and to affix the plaque on or near the property designated as a Chicago landmark in accordance with the provisions of § 2-120-700 of the Municipal Code.

SECTION 5. The Commission is directed to comply with the provisions of § 2-120-720 of the Municipal Code, regarding notification of said designation.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and approval.

Exhibit 1 referred to in this ordinance reads as follows:

Exhibit 1.

Lorraine Hansberry House.

Property Description.

Legal Description:

Lot 27 in Block 2 in resubdivision of Blocks 11 and 12 in resubdivision of Washington Park Club Addition, in the south half of the southeast quarter of Section 15, Township 38 North, Range 14, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois.

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Address Commonly Known As:

6140 South Rhodes Avenue.

Permanent Index Number:

20-15-410-026-0000.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)SS.
 COUNTY OF COOK)

I, MIGUEL DEL VALLE, City Clerk of the City of Chicago in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the annexed and foregoing is a true and correct copy of that certain ordinance now on file in my office designating Lorraine Hansberry House at 6140 South Rhodes Avenue (part of Chicago Black Renaissance Literary Movement Theme Study) as Chicago Landmark.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the said ordinance was passed by the City Council of the said City of Chicago on the tenth (10th) day of February, 2010.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the vote on the question of the passage of the said ordinance by the said City Council was taken by yeas and nays and recorded in the Journal of the Proceedings of the said City Council, and that the result of said vote so taken was as follows, to wit:

Yeas 46 Nays 0

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the said ordinance was delivered to the Mayor of the said City of Chicago after the passage thereof by the said City Council, without delay, by the City Clerk of the said City of Chicago, and that the said Mayor failed to return the said ordinance to the said City Council with his written objections thereto at the next regular meeting of the said City Council occurring not less than five (5) days after the passage of the said ordinance.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the original, of which the foregoing is a true copy, is entrusted to my care for safe keeping, and that I am the lawful keeper of the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the City of Chicago aforesaid, at the said City, in the County and State aforesaid, this thirty-first (31st) day of March, 2010.

[V.E.]


 MIGUEL DEL VALLE, City Clerk