



CITY OF CHICAGO

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COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND RECREATION  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL - ROOM 200  
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

Chicago City Clerk-Council Div.  
2022 MAY 10 AM 8:57

ALDERMAN NICHOLAS SPOSATO  
CHAIRMAN

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**COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS & RECREATION  
MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT  
APRIL 2022**

Pursuant to Rule 45 of the City Council Rules of Order, the Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation submits the following Monthly Rule 45 Report for April 2022.

**Date, Time & Location of Meeting:**

On April 20, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. the Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation held a virtual video conference meeting, in Chicago, Illinois.

**Attendance:**

The following members were virtually present at the April 20, 2022 Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation Meeting: Chairman Sposato (38), Vice-Chair Vasquez (40), LaSpata (1), Sadlowski-Garza (10), Rodriguez (22), Tabares (23), Taliaferro (20), Cardona (31), Nugent (39), Tunney (44), Gardiner (45), and Silverstein (50).

The following member(s) were not present at the April 20, 2022 Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation Meeting: King (4), Martin (47), Osterman (48), Hadden (49)

The following non-member Alderman were present: Scott (24), Burnett (27)

**The Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation addressed the following items:**

Approval of the March 2022 Monthly Rule 45 Report for the Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 4/20/2022

**A2022-31** Appointment of Sharif Walker as Commissioner of Chicago Park District  
Lightfoot (Mayor)

PASSED COMMITTEE 4/20/2022

April 20, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting of Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation

Chairman Sposato called the meeting to order (which was held virtually, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chairman Sposato then took roll call, which established a quorum of members present and noted that their "yes" or "present" response will be determined as a "yes" vote when this quorum roll call is used as a reference vote for later items.

The Chairman announced that there are no speakers signed up for public comment, and acknowledged the receipt of an email in support of the appointment of Sharif Walker from John Paul Jones. This concludes the public comment.

Chairman Sposato then moved on to the regular agenda, calling for the approval of the **March 2022 Monthly Rule 45 Report** for the Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation. Hearing no questions or comments from the members, the Chairman asks for a motion to approve this item. Hearing no objections, Alderman Gardiner moved to approve the March 2022 Monthly Rule 45 Report.

The Chairman continued on to the next item on the agenda. **A2022-31 An appointment of Sharif Walker as Commissioner of Chicago Park District.** He then introduced Sharif Walker, and asked if he would like to tell the committee a little bit about himself.

Sharif Walker thanked the Chairman and the Committee for allowing him to introduce himself to them. He addressed the committee members saying that it is a great honor, considering himself "partially raised by the park district," and that being considered for such a position is beyond anything he could've previously considered.

As he continued, Sharif shared his experience and gratitude for the positive influence he received from Jim Hobson, a Chicago Park District Supervisor, at a very early age, and the large impact it made in his life. Among Sharif's many accomplishments, he excelled at baseball, and received a scholarship from Lincoln University in Jefferson City Missouri. Following college, his career began as a Behavior Management Specialist at Ada S. McKinley Community Services on the South Side. Along his career path, he coached at Whitney Young High School, after which he started working with the Park District, where he was a Program Specialist for approximately five years. There he facilitated programs across the West and South Side. After working at Ada S. McKinley, he became a Program Director with After School Matters, primarily on the West Side for almost twelve years, of which his last three were spent working with parks, schools, and libraries on the South Side.

Sharif expressed that one of his greatest honors while at After School Matters being able to direct one of the largest free sports programs across the county, Mayor Daley's Neighborhood Sports, and that he still hear stories from kids who participated in those programs. He went on to become a founding Board Chairman at an organization called Austin Coming Together where he worked with Park Districts to do numerous events and meetings that helped the West Side of the Austin community flourish again. As of today, Sharif is presently the President and CEO at Bethlehem New Life in Austin.

Chairman Sposato thanked Sharif, and complimented him on his nice resume and his commitment to his community and kids. The Chairman expressed that he too frequented the parks, joining in on as many activities as possible. The Chairman then opened the floor to committee members that had any comments or questions, first recognizing Alderman Taliaferro.



Alderman Taliaferro thanked the Chairman and expressed his support for this appointment. He commended the Mayor on her fine selection. He expressed that the 29<sup>th</sup> Ward has been one of the areas that benefitted from Mr. Walker's hard work commitment to serving families and making sure the families receive the resources that they deserve through his work with Austin Coming Together, and now Bethel New Life. Alderman Taliaferro said he knows Mr. Walker will be a great asset to the Chicago Park District as well.

Chairman Sposato then recognized Alderman Scott, who also commended the Mayor on the appointment and expressed that they had been talking about having some West Side representatives on the Board of the Chicago Park District. Alderman Scott mentioned that he has known Sharif for years, and that Sharif knows the inner workings of the Park District. Alderman Scott said that he's sure Sharif will do great things at the parks, such as bring resources, specifically to the West Side of Chicago and the entire City of Chicago and he looks forward to working with him.

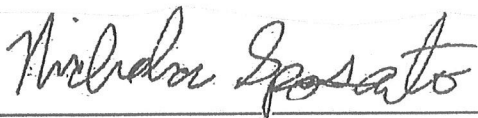
The Chairman recognized Alderman Burnett. The Alderman congratulated Mr. Walker, saying he knows he will do well and that he appreciated everything he's done in the past and his commitment to young people.

Chairman Sposato then invited Alderman LaSpata to speak next. Alderman LaSpata said he was trusting him in this space, to really make sure that every park is that safe harbor that he (Sharif) grew up with and he looks forward to working with him in the future.

The Chairman saw no further questions or comments, and a motion was made by Alderman Taliaferro to recommend passage of this item (A2022-31), by the affirmative vote of all members present for the roll call to determine quorum. Hearing no objection, was so ordered. The "do pass" recommendation of this ordinance will be reported out at the next City Council meeting on May, 23, 2022.

Chairman Sposato stated, that having no further business before the Committee, Chairman Sposato asked for a motion to adjourn by the same roll call vote used to determine quorum. Alderwoman Tabares made a moved to adjourn. The Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nicholas Sposato". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nicholas Sposato, Chairman  
Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation