OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first few years of a child's life is important in creating a strong foundation for future development, providing a strong baseline for lifelong cognitive, social, academic, and emotional abilities; and

WHEREAS, proper early childcare and education consists of quality learning environments with trained professionals who understand brain development, have the ability to create opportunities for learning, and who work with parents to support and encourage development and growth; and

WHEREAS, while early childcare and education is vital to the growth and development of children, families across the city lack access to affordable and quality childcare; and

WHEREAS, Chicago has committed to supporting early childhood care and education by implementing universal pre-k, which will help to expand access to education across the city; working to recruit more than 1,500 early childhood teachers by 2022; provide outreach and partnerships to ensure community based organizations that offer early childhood care and education are supported; and set a goal to increase the number of incoming Chicago Public School kindergartners meeting benchmarks by 50%; and

WHEREAS, "No Small Matter," a feature documentary, was created to highlight both the importance of early childcare and education and the lack of affordable and high-quality options for families with young children; and

WHEREAS, the film explores how children are raised around the country, what can be done to change the perception of what age learning begins, and hopes to inspire audience understanding of the issue and drive it to the top of the political agenda; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2019 "No Small Matter" will premiere in Illinois at the Gene Siskel Film Center, and will help to kick-off statewide events that will build awareness about the importance of early childcare and education:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2019 to be NO SMALL MATTER DAY IN CHICAGO and urge all residents to support this documentary and understand the importance of early childcare and education.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2019.

[Signature]
Mayor