

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Route 66, established in 1926, has long captured the imagination of travelers across the world, stretching nearly 2,500 miles and linking Chicago to the coast of California; and

**WHEREAS**, this historic highway has for the last 100 years connected rural communities, neon-lit motels, diners, and countless dreams across eight states, becoming a symbol of American mobility, adventure, and cultural heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago has always held the distinct honor of serving as the official starting point of Route 66, marking the beginning of one of America's most storied journeys; and

**WHEREAS**, when first designated in 1926, U.S. Route 66 began in Cicero, Illinois, at the intersection of 48th Avenue and Ogden Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 1930s, the starting point was moved to the intersection of Jackson Boulevard and Michigan Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1955, the starting point was moved once again to the intersection of Adams Street and Michigan Avenue when Jackson Boulevard became a one-way street heading east; and

**WHEREAS**, Navy Pier stands as one of Chicago's most iconic and cherished landmarks, a historic site that serves as a community gathering place, and a welcoming gateway to the city known for its music, food, amusement rides, fireworks, public art, and sweeping views of Lake Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the Santa Monica Pier was publicly celebrated and formally recognized as the symbolic western terminus of Route 66, establishing it as the emotional and cultural finish line for generations of travelers who journeyed westward; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing Navy Pier as the unofficial eastern terminus of Route 66 symbolically connects two of the nation's most beloved piers – creating a meaningful “pier-to-pier” bond that reinforces the cultural and historic significance of America's most iconic road; and

**WHEREAS**, this pairing enriches the narrative of Route 66 by linking the western dreams long sought from the Santa Monica Pier with the renewed sense of possibility found on the shores of Lake Michigan, in the heart of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, the planned date of the dedication of a ceremonial Route 66 starting-point sign – March 25, 2026 – coincides with the 28th Annual Worldwide Toast to Harry Caray, celebrated at Harry Caray's Tavern at Navy Pier; and

**WHEREAS**, the story of Harry Caray is deeply intertwined with the history and culture of Route 66 as Harry grew up in St. Louis, where Route 66 ran through his neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, Harry traveled Route 66 from St. Louis to Wrigley Field to announce his very first game on April 17, 1945, when the Chicago Cubs defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 3–2; and

**WHEREAS**, while working in Joliet on Route 66 at WCLS radio, the station manager suggested that Harry change his last name from “Carabina” to “Caray,” a moment that helped shape the career of one of America’s most iconic sportscasters; and

**WHEREAS**, the famed Cubs–Cardinals rivalry was once known as the “Route 66 Rivalry,” further cementing the road’s place in the cultural and athletic life of the Midwest; and

**WHEREAS**, Route 66 has long been celebrated as “The Mother Road” and “The Main Street of America,” serving as a primary connection between the Great Lakes region and the Pacific Coast, supporting westward migration, commerce, and cultural exchange; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that during the 100th anniversary year of Route 66, the City of Chicago hereby designates Navy Pier as the unofficial eastern terminus of Route 66, marking the beginning of the great American journey west from the edge of the Great Lakes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this symbolic extension honors the legacy of Route 66 while inspiring future generations of travelers, historians, and dreamers to explore the spirit of discovery that has defined the road since 1926; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Chicago proudly celebrates this pier-to-pier connection between Navy Pier and the Santa Monica Pier as a tribute to the enduring legacy, imagination, and adventure of Route 66.

  
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BRENDAN REILLY  
Alderman, 42nd Ward