

Daley City - my kind of town

Bruce Sutchar
September 20, 2013



Those of you old enough to remember the song “tickey-tackey” (little boxes on a hillside) may remember that it was about a town just south of the San Francisco city limits called Daley City. Recently while going from the San Francisco airport across the bay I went right by the same said Daley City. But I thought that the name Daley City would have been more appropriate for the sleepy Midwestern town they call Chicago. I mean two of the main streets in the city, Ogden and Cermak were named after the very first mayor and the first mayor to be assassinated. Roads have been named after county commissioners, former presidents and even a social worker. The most prominent name over the past 75 years however, has been Daley. So maybe we should change the name Chicago (an Indian name for the skunk cabbage which once grew wild in this area) officially to Daley City. I mean in 1955 a little known state elected an official named Richard J. Daley was able to oust the incumbent mayor and won his first four year term as the city’s chief executive. In the ensuing 21 years, he became nationally known as the strongest political leader in the nation. Being the good Catholic that he was, he attended Mass every morning at old St Patrick’s Cathedral and throughout his twenty-one years in office, he was never convicted, indicted or even arrested. This in stark contrast to several of Illinois’ former chief executives who have each spent significant time in some of the nicer houses of confinement throughout the greater United States (five governors since the 1960’s).

I was only eight years old when Richard J. Daley was first elected, so I don’t know much about my home town before that, but Richard J. Daley’s Chicago became well known throughout the world. We hosted a visit by Queen Elizabeth; performed our “air-raid drills” during the Soviet cold war days and most famously, won our first American League baseball pennant in 40 years in 1959. What is still remembered was that at the moment the White Sox clinched the pennant, the Fire Chief set off the air raid sirens all over the city. Of course we knew it was the celebration for that great “Go-Go Sox victory,” but if you were someone who knew nothing about baseball, you just assumed that we were being nuked by the Soviets.

Chicago is a great sports city—we won 6 world championships under Michael Jordan; we won hockey’s Stanley cup with Bobby Hull and Stan Mikita in 1961 and then again in 2011 and 2013; the Chicago Bears dominated the national football league in the thirties and forties (with a Jewish quarterback) and then again in 1963 and 1985. Yet baseball, my favorite sport has basically eluded us between the time that the Sox played the Cubs in the 1906 world series until our victory in 2005. So between the 1919 Black Sox scandal and the 2005 world series championship, there was little post-season play in Chicagoland. The fact is that when Arizona won the world series a few years ago it was noted that the last time the Cubs won, Arizona was not even a state (1906).

But I digress—during his twenty one years in office, Mayor Daley became a household word in Chicago. His minions of democratic ward committeemen and precinct captains faithfully got the vote out every two years (rumors that dead people both voted, some several times, while others were even elected,

are actually true). A good friend of the Kennedy Family, Daley is singularly given credit for making sure that John F. Kennedy carried Illinois and thus guaranteed Kennedy the electoral majority for president. The years between 1960-1968 proved to be “*business as usual*” for Daley and Chicago with “*Hizzoner*” winning four year terms for the third and fourth times in 1963 and 1967. Only an occasional scandal, like the closing of one entire police district, and the appointment of a new police superintendent clouded Chicago’s stature. There were no school strikes! When the union and the school board could not agree, the mayor would lock them up in a room and tell them not to come out until they had hammered out an agreement.

However, the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the ensuing 1968 Democratic National Convention changed much of Daley’s image. In 1968 I was just finishing up my junior year in college, the Viet Nam War was in full swing and the city once again, had zero sports prospects for the post season. I participated in the activities and met many exciting celebrities like Allen Ginsburg, Phil Ochs, Chad Mitchell, Dick Gregory, Abby Hoffman, Jerry Rubin and Jean Genet. The “shoot to kill” order during the King riots and the “whole world is watching” scene at the Convention on Michigan Avenue outside the Conrad Hilton Hotel did not bode well for the mayor—especially when his face turned red yelling at Senator Abraham Ribicoff on live television during the convention.

Say what you will about Mayor Daley, the man loved the city. He had no interest in being a Senator, the Governor, or even President of anything but Chicago. Everyone in Chicago always felt that his real desire was to remain mayor until the day he died. In fact in December, 1976, just about the time I was having dinner at Washington Street in San Francisco and listening to Dr. Durst give the elephant lecture, Mayor Richard J. Daley died of a heart attack.

On a personal note, his daughter Patricia had been my high school English teacher—and a good one at that. I remember one time when I took out my Roget’s pocket thesaurus and changed every word that I could of my paper—only to get a big red “D”. Especially when I defined “impregnable” as “incapable of becoming pregnant.” She would not bite one iota. She also told us in no uncertain terms on the first day of class that we were not ever to talk about her father in class. She said that, “sometimes, when you hear that some dignitaries are in town, I may not be here for a day or two if I am required to act as hostess. And that’s the last word I want to hear about this subject.”

After Mayor Daley died, the city of Chicago had a rough time for the next thirteen years. Then Richard M. Daley, the mayor’s oldest son finally passed the bar exam and became Cook County’s States Attorney. However, due to bad timing, he lost his first race for mayor. Finally in 1989, he returned as the family’s rightful heir as the mayor of Chicago and would remain there throughout 6 terms for the next 22 years. Most of these years saw Chicago grow in esteem in the world’s eyes and the comparisons to his father became less and less. The city suffered many scandals (usually involving bribes and payoffs), but like his father, the mayor was never connected—even when the scandals involved his cousin’s trucking firm or his nephew’s murder accusation.

Throughout Mayor Daley’s twenty plus years, he became a stronger and stronger supporter of True Parents’ work. He sent many letters of greeting for our conferences and though at first they were quite generic, he worked his way up to mentioning Father and Mother by name without hesitation. He would send his chief of staff for religious affairs to almost all of our functions.

The Unification Church has often, like the anti-abortion people and others been considered strictly a one-issue group. I guess the bottom line really is that even though we are working on projects all over the world, our one real issue with others is simply whether or not they like True Parents. I know that we have associated with some pretty shady characters over the years, but only because, regardless of what else

they believed or were doing, they were happy to work with us.

During his mayoral tenure, Mayor Daley's wife Maggie, became the sweetheart of the city through her work with several charities and the city's cultural committee. Her work with a group called, "After School Matters" put her involvement with the public school kids charity under positive national scrutiny with much kudos and accolades.

Throughout many of these years, Maggie suffered from bone marrow cancer and was seen on crutches or even a wheel chair. Finally, in 2011, she hung on long enough to participate in her son's marriage and then finally gave up the ghost. Many felt that because of her health, her husband decided not to return for another term as Mayor. He retired after 21 years in office, having been the longest serving mayor in the history of Chicago.



When Mayor Daley I was in power, everyone knew that in the Daley home, Sis Daley was the one really in charge—no questions asked. Since I missed Mayor Daley's funeral in 1976, I felt compelled to attend Sis Daley's funeral several years ago. It was held in their local Catholic Church in the Bridgeport neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. The first Mayor Daley had lived in Bridgeport, a sleepy little all white, Catholic, blue collar community adjacent to the White Sox Ball Park and Midway Airport, all of his life. When Mayor Daley II decided to move into the upscale South Loop neighborhood, many were in an uproar. But the funeral of Mrs. Daley was held in their local parish. I arrived late and, not wanting to watch the funeral on closed circuit television from

the basement, I accepted the last remaining seat on the main floor. So here was this little Jewish-Unificationist put smack dab in the middle of all the most famous Catholic Priests in Chicago. At one point, I bent over and asked the priest next to me, who had given the eulogy for Mayor Daley, back in 1976. He smiled and laughed and said, that the same priest (the Daley's family priest) who now at 98 years of age was telling some great Daley stories and once again reiterating the fact that within their household walls, Sis Daley was the boss. Of course Mrs. Daley's daughter Patricia, my old English teacher, was there to read a poem for the occasion (no thesaurus necessary).

Mayor Daley's brother John has been a Cook County commissioner for many, many years. Like his father, he has always been close to the money and is the County's finance chairman. His youngest brother William has been President Clinton's Secretary of Transportation and President Obama's Chief of Staff. He has always been considered the most intelligent of the Daley brothers, but has usually chosen to remain behind the scenes.

In closing, I know that many states have their own first families. Massachusetts has the Kennedy's, Louisiana has the Longs, Wyoming has the Simpsons and the Cheneys, and Chicago has the Daleys. Say what you will, I must re-iterate that both Mayor Daleys have always had a love affair with the city of Chicago. You can see it in the floral arrangements downtown or out at O'Hare Airport. There is no other job that one can imagine either one of them ever desiring. They are icons, they loved the city and Chicago's rise in world esteem is directly related. The old Chicago of drugs, gambling, prostitution, Al Capone and Elliot Ness has been replaced by Michael Jordan, Navy Pier, World Class Hotels and Restaurants, Millennium Park and several of the world's best medical centers, e.g. Loyola, Northwestern,

Rush and my own alma mater, The University of Chicago where my birth, where the research for the atomic bomb, and the first liver transplant, all took place.

A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by ALDERMAN JOSEPH A. MOORE ON DECEMBER 13, 2000

Whereas . Just as love within the family is the cornerstone of society, the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (F. F. W. P. U.) believes that empowering the role of family-based moral leadership in society is fundamental to society's well-being; and

WHEREAS, Healthy families are the foundation for healthy, well-adjusted nations because the values that promote peace in the world community are a direct extension of the values that promote peace within individual families; and

WHEREAS, Promoting the development of such families is the central task of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. Specifically, the F. F. W. P. U. promotes the responsibility of parents to care for and love their children; to guide them to the highest moral, physical and intellectual standards; and to protect them from abuse and exploitation. The responsibility of husband and wife is to maintain purity in conjugal love, upholding the ideal of marital fidelity, while the responsibility of children is to love and respect their parents. A society of families that follow this standard has the capacity to overcome even the most pervasive social problems; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the 1990's thousands of couples throughout the great City of Chicago have rededicated their marriages and their eternal commitments to their families and spouses; and

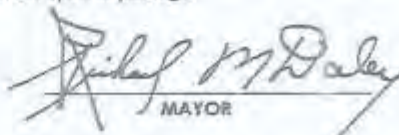
WHEREAS, The founders of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon and Doctor Hak Ja Han Moon will be addressing Midwestern Delegates at the fifth annual True Family Values Banquet at the downtown Chicago Marriott Hotel on Saturday, December 16, 2000; and


WHEREAS, The occasion of the True Family Values Banquet will also be a celebration of the eighteenth birthday of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of Chicago, gathered here this thirteenth day of December, 2000, do hereby proclaim Saturday, December 16, 2000, as "FAMILY FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE AND UNIFICATION DAY IN CHICAGO"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the Reverend Sun Myung Moon upon its passage.




MAYOR


CITY CLERK

A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by ALDERMAN JOSEPH A. MOORE ON DECEMBER 4, 2002

Whereas, The Family Federation for World Peace in Illinois (F.F.W.P.) will celebrate its Seventh Annual True Family Values Banquet on December 14, 2002; and

WHEREAS, The participants will consist of a multi cultural, inter-religious convocation of clergy and political, economic, civic, community and women's leaders; and

WHEREAS, The F.F.W.P. promotes the unity of all people, regardless of nationality, religion, race or cultural background; and

WHEREAS, The F.F.W.P. is a school of love wherein values and virtues are taught which enable us to become tolerant and compassionate peacemakers in our communities, nation and world; and

WHEREAS, As many of our nation's and world's families are fragmenting and suffering enormous stress it is incumbent on our religious, political, cultural and community leaders to launch a campaign for family renewal; and

WHEREAS, We invite all people to join together in recommitting themselves to building strong marriages and stable families, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered in assembly this fourth day of December, 2002, do hereby proclaim Saturday, December 14, 2002, as "True Family Values Day in Chicago", and encourage all City of Chicago officials to recognize similar observances and civic initiatives throughout our neighborhoods and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the Family Federation for World Peace.




MAYOR


CITY CLERK



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

February 25, 2011

GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I extend my warmest greetings to the Family Federation of Illinois (FFWP) and all those celebrating the birthday of the Reverend and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon.

The Reverend and Mrs. Moon have shown a commitment to strengthening and supporting the family, the most vital part of our communities and have made a lasting impact on countless people. I join FFWP in sending best wishes for many more years of ministry.

May you have an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Daley". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

Mayor