DECLARING THORNHILL AND THE CITY OF CHICAGO TO BE SISTER COMMUNITIES:

WHEREAS according to the South African base Surplus People Project, the South African government has relocated 3.5 million South Africans against their will over the past thirty years, including more than 10,000 residents of Thornhill;

WHEREAS these forced relocations are a cornerstone of the Homelands Policy of the South African government which aims to revoke the citizenship of the majority of black South Africans;

WHEREAS those who have been moved usually face a lifetime of unemployment, poverty, and hunger;

WHEREAS the residents of Thornhill have lost their citizenship, the right to work in South Africa, and have not been given the land promised them by the South African government;

WHEREAS the people of the City of Chicago have a long history of support for people around the world fighting for justice and against the abuse of basic human rights;

WHEREAS the City of Chicago regards the South Africa government's system of racial segregation, known as apartheid, as morally and ethically reprehensible;

WHEREAS the City of Chicago has passed legislation to disinvest its direct and indirect financial links to South Africa and the citizens of Chicago wish to remain involved and support the Anti-Apartheid movement in affirmative ways;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and the Chicago City Council that: the City of Chicago declares Thornhill and the City of Chicago to be sister communities. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship. We pledge to undertake efforts to increase understanding between our communities and assist Thornhill in its efforts to regain the rights which they have lost in relocation.