



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT  
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, since railroading began in the mid-1800s, Chicago has been the freight and passenger railroad hub of the United States with more lines of track radiating from Chicago than from any other city and are a vital part of Chicago's commerce; and

WHEREAS, the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) was founded in 1935 by a group of rail historians with the goal of preserving steam and electric railway historical material, encouraging the building of model railways, and educating current and future generations about railroads and their history; and

WHEREAS, in 1969 Chicago's Blackhawk Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society was established and is made up of working and retired professional railroaders, historians, and fans of rails and trains; and

WHEREAS, Blackhawk works with museums and historical societies to create and display railroad-themed exhibits, encourages and promotes public awareness of railroads and their history, work to restore historic railroad equipment and depots, and offer support to railroad groups; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the chapter works to educate the public on the important role that railroads play in the city with Chicago being the most important interchange point for freight between the nation's railroads and home to the notable Union Pacific Railroad, and home to a transit system that ranks second in the country for commuter rail passengers with the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, Metra Electric, BNSF, and Amtrak transit systems serving Chicago and its suburbs; and

WHEREAS, continuing the tradition to preserve railway history, educate people on the role railways has played in the growth of our country, and celebrate Chicago's indelible legacy and impact in the railway industry, the Blackhawk Chapter of the NRHS has designated October as Chicago Railroad History Month that will be celebrated throughout Chicagoland with various programs and exhibits:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim October 2019 to be CHICAGO RAILROAD HISTORY MONTH IN CHICAGO in recognition of our indelible legacy in railroading and in honor of the thousands of rail workers that have helped to grow our city and country.

Dated this 1st day of October, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori E. Lightfoot".

Mayor