



HJ0046

LRB104 16002 ECR 29252 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly wish  
3 to recognize the contributions of the Palestinian-American  
4 community to the State of Illinois and the vitality of its  
5 neighborhoods; and

6 WHEREAS, For decades, Palestinian immigrants and their  
7 descendants have established homes, businesses, and civic  
8 institutions in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, with Harlem  
9 Avenue between 79th Street and 111th Street becoming the heart  
10 of Little Palestine and a central gathering place for culture,  
11 commerce, and community life; and

12 WHEREAS, The Palestinian-American community has enriched  
13 Illinois through entrepreneurship, philanthropy, cultural  
14 preservation, and civic engagement, strengthening the fabric  
15 of our State while maintaining a deep commitment to family and  
16 tradition; and

17 WHEREAS, Generations of entrepreneurs and community  
18 members have built successful businesses, organizations, and  
19 cultural institutions that have anchored the  
20 Palestinian-American community and provided opportunities for  
21 growth, development, and civic life; and

1           WHEREAS, Palestinian-American leaders, families, and  
2 community organizations have played vital roles in the  
3 redevelopment and beautification of Harlem Avenue, helping to  
4 shape neighborhoods and commercial districts that today define  
5 the community's presence in the area; and

6           WHEREAS, Palestinian-American educational, cultural, and  
7 faith-based institutions have further enriched community life,  
8 providing spaces for learning, gathering, and preserving  
9 cultural heritage while instilling civic and cultural values  
10 in future generations; and

11           WHEREAS, Community organizations have played a  
12 foundational role in ensuring that Palestinian-Americans have  
13 permanent places of worship, gathering, and cultural  
14 celebration, thereby sustaining Little Palestine as a  
15 cornerstone of identity and belonging; and

16           WHEREAS, A new generation of Palestinian-Americans,  
17 through businesses, cultural initiatives, civic engagement,  
18 and community organizing continues to sustain and grow Little  
19 Palestine, transforming it into a vibrant, welcoming, and  
20 magical space that reflects both the heritage and the future  
21 of the community; and

22           WHEREAS, The countless Palestinian-American community

1 leaders, advocates, families, and institutions deserve  
2 recognition for their collective vision, advocacy, and service  
3 that have strengthened and sustained Little Palestine; and

4 WHEREAS, While it is impossible to name every individual,  
5 family, or institution that has contributed to Little  
6 Palestine, it is fitting that all generations of  
7 Palestinian-Americans be recognized for their enduring  
8 contributions to Illinois; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
11 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Harlem Avenue in  
12 Chicago from 79th Street to 111th Street as Little Palestine  
13 Way in honor of the countless contributions of the  
14 Palestinian-American community; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
16 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
17 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
18 giving notice of the name "Little Palestine Way"; and be it  
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That we commend both past and present  
21 generations of Palestinian-American leaders, entrepreneurs,  
22 educators, cultural organizers, women's organizations, faith

1 leaders, and families for ensuring that Harlem Avenue remains  
2 a thriving hub of Palestinian-American life, identity, and  
3 contribution in Illinois; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
5 presented to the Secretary of the Illinois Department of  
6 Transportation, the Mayor of the City of Burbank, the Mayor of  
7 the Village of Bridgeview, the Mayor of the City of Palos  
8 Hills, the Mayor of the Village of Chicago Ridge, and the  
9 Village President of the Village of Worth.