



HR0843

LRB100 20645 MST 36088 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Ford Heights Public Library District is located in the Village of Ford Heights, 15 miles south of the southern edge of the City of Chicago; it is considered one of the most disadvantaged suburbs in the United States; and

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WHEREAS, The Ford Heights Public Library closed over 20 years ago and the building was torn down from lack of money for upkeep; in 2009, the Glenwood-Lynwood Library District terminated its agreement to allow Ford Heights residents to use its library because of an alleged \$50,000 debt incurred by Ford Heights; and

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WHEREAS, In 2013, the Ford Heights Public Library District board president told the Chicago Tribune that she could find no financial history for the public library district after taking office; and

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WHEREAS, Two years ago, an official with the Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library told the Chicago Tribune it severed ties with Ford Heights after discovering financial documents revealing hundreds of dollars in checks that were allegedly cashed for office supplies, when, at the time, the Ford Heights Public Library District had no office and no office personnel; and

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1 WHEREAS, The residents of Ford Heights pay \$13,382 a year
2 in property taxes to the public library district, but there is
3 no public library and its residents cannot even get a library
4 card; and

5 WHEREAS, Libraries provide essential services and
6 resources to the communities in which they are located;
7 libraries are a place of learning and fostering community,
8 especially in poor communities, where public libraries may be
9 the only place to access computers and the Internet; and

10 WHEREAS, The residents of Ford Heights deserve
11 transparency and accountability for every tax dollar that is
12 spent on their behalf; they deserve access to the wealth of
13 knowledge that is provided by library books and access to
14 library computers to search and apply for jobs or to enroll in
15 community college classes; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the
18 Auditor General is directed to conduct a performance audit of
19 the Ford Heights Public Library District; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the audit include but not be limited to the
21 following:

1 (1) Whether the administrative expenses at the Ford
2 Heights Public Library District are justified based on the
3 services provided to the residents of Ford Heights;

4 (2) Whether the Ford Heights Public Library District
5 maintains documentation supporting its administrative
6 expenses;

7 (3) Whether there has been any use of public library
8 district funds that is not supported by adequate and
9 reasonable documentation; and

10 (4) What services are provided by the Ford Heights
11 Public Library District and whether service can be
12 improved; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Ford Heights Public Library District and
14 any other agency or entity having information relevant to this
15 audit cooperate fully and promptly with the Auditor General
16 during this review; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence this audit as
18 soon as possible and report his findings and recommendations
19 upon completion in accordance with the provisions of Section
20 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act.