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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is an infectious disease, caused by a
3 newly discovered coronavirus, that has resulted in a world-wide
4 pandemic, infecting almost three million people across the
5 globe and resulting in over 200,000 fatalities; and

6 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus is not racist, but the
7 underlying healthcare and social policies in the United States
8 are, leading to COVID-19 mortality rates in the United States
9 that are five times greater for people of color than mortality
10 rates for whites, including in Cook County, where black
11 residents account for 23% of the population and 58% of COVID-19
12 fatalities; and

13 WHEREAS, Due to years of chronic disinvestment and a lack
14 of access to resources that have resulted in shamefully high
15 COVID-19-related death rates among black communities in
16 Illinois, COVID-19 has exposed healthcare disparities that
17 have long existed in low-income, minority communities in
18 Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of President and CEO Tim Egan
20 and using only resources obtained by him, the New Roseland
21 Community Hospital, located on the far South Side of Chicago in
22 one of the poorest communities in Illinois, has mounted a

1 defense against the vicious attacks of COVID-19; and

2 WHEREAS, Rather than accept the lack of response for
3 minority communities, Tim Egan sought and procured
4 cutting-edge serological tests for COVID-19 exposure as well as
5 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) screenings for COVID-19
6 infections, in order to flatten the curve for South Side
7 communities that did not have access to COVID-19 tests or
8 resources; and

9 WHEREAS, Tim Egan was able to assemble a team of
10 physicians, scientists, and laboratory and medical experts to
11 build the new Roseland COVID-19 Care Center, led by Dr. Terrill
12 Applewhite, Chairman of the New RCH COVID-19 Task Force; he and
13 Dr. Applewhite have been assisted by Northwestern University
14 Hospital's Dr. Victoria Brander (Associate Professor) and the
15 American Medical Laboratory; and

16 WHEREAS, The New Roseland Community Hospital has tested
17 over 10,000 residents on the South Side of Chicago for
18 COVID-19, regardless of their ability to pay, and has also
19 tested over 2,000 Chicago police officers, Chicago
20 firefighters, and employees of the Cook County Sheriff's
21 Office; and

22 WHEREAS, Tim Egan created Chicago's first mobile COVID-19

1 Mobile Testing Unit, which has been dispatched to test nursing
2 homes, first responders, and essential businesses in an effort
3 to protect the elderly, strengthen community safety, and
4 support reopening the economy; and

5 WHEREAS, Due to the lack of COVID-19 testing kits and
6 personal protective equipment (PPE) available to community
7 safety-net hospitals, Tim Egan needed to secure PPE through his
8 network of professional contacts, friends, and colleagues and
9 obtained so many that he was able to donate over 1,000 masks to
10 the Chicago Police Department in recognition of the valuable
11 work they do in keeping communities safe; and

12 WHEREAS, When the New Roseland Community Hospital
13 cafeteria closed, Tim Egan was able to feed patients and staff
14 with donated and prepared meals from friends, family, and other
15 associates, and he used his contacts as Chairman of the Old
16 Town Merchants Association and the Chicago Irish Brotherhood to
17 ensure patients and staff were well-fed, despite the temporary
18 cafeteria shutdown; and

19 WHEREAS, Understanding the difficult working conditions of
20 front-line staff due to the COVID-19 exposure, Tim Egan was
21 among the first Illinois hospital CEOs to institute "hazard
22 pay" for employees, despite being a community safety-net
23 hospital serving low-income residents on Medicaid and the

1 uninsured; and

2 WHEREAS, The New Roseland Community Hospital believes that
3 all people deserve access to quality healthcare and health
4 resources, regardless of their race or ability to pay, and that
5 no person in Illinois should die because they are served by
6 Medicaid or lack insurance coverage, which is far too often the
7 case in Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, This is a teachable moment, revealing the need to
9 fully appreciate the healthcare disparities that COVID-19 has
10 exposed in minority communities in Illinois and to strive to
11 invest, rather than disinvest, in these communities moving
12 forward; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we commend New Roseland Community Hospital President and CEO
16 Tim Egan and the New Roseland Community Hospital for their
17 unwillingness to accept the disproportionate effects of
18 COVID-19 on poor, minority communities and for the countless
19 lives that have been saved by their efforts; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
21 presented to Tim Egan and the New Roseland Community Hospital
22 as a symbol of our respect and esteem.