



HR1042

LRB102 30096 LAW 42311 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Shirley
4 J. Newsome of Chicago, who passed away on December 25, 2022;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome was born to Rev. Charlie Murray
7 Sr. and Blancy Lillie Strong on August 15, 1945; she attended
8 Marshall High School and Chicago Teachers College, now the
9 Chicago State University College of Education; she was a
10 resident of North Kenwood-Oakland in Chicago since 1979; and

11 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome worked as an executive and
12 judicial assistant, legal secretary, and stenographer across
13 various agencies for the U.S. Government for more than 45
14 years, including 33 years with the Federal Circuit Court
15 system and 11 years with the Court of Appeals for the Seventh
16 Circuit, before retiring in 2006; throughout her career, she
17 received regular acknowledgments and awards for outstanding
18 quality, special service, and length of service; and

19 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome was a well-known North
20 Kenwood-Oakland community leader and caretaker; she first
21 became involved in her community through founding the Lake
22 Park-Berkeley-Ellis-Drexel Block Club Association in 1981,

1 which encompassed the area between Drexel Boulevard and the
2 Lake and Pershing Road to 43rd Street; she was involved in the
3 overall development and revitalization of the community area
4 since 1988; she participated in the 80 planning meetings that
5 led to the designation of North Kenwood-Oakland as a
6 conservation area and served as co-chair of the Planning
7 Committee; following designation by the Chicago City Council,
8 she was appointed chairman of the North Kenwood-Oakland
9 Community Conservation Council (NK-O CCC) in 1991; during her
10 tenure, the NK-O CCC approved housing developments, from new
11 condominiums to expanded parks to the reconfiguration of
12 Oakwood Boulevard; and

13 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome joined the South East Chicago
14 Commission (SECC) in 2006; she was appointed to the SECC Board
15 in 2008 to lead efforts in housing, transportation, business
16 development and retention, neighborhood improvement, and arts
17 and culture; she served as president of the SECC Board for 11
18 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome was appointed by then-Mayor
20 Richard Daley to fill the interim alderman seat of the Fourth
21 Ward left vacant by Toni Preckwinkle; she was unanimously
22 approved by the City Council on January 13, 2011 and served
23 until May 2011; and

1 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome belonged to several
2 organizations, serving as board chairman of the Quad
3 Communities Development Corporation (QCDC), vice-chair of the
4 University of Chicago Charter School, and
5 vice-chair/commissioner of the Community Development
6 Commission; she was a member of the Obama Presidential Library
7 Community Advisory Council, the Fourth Ward Democratic
8 Organization, and the Ida B. Wells Commemorative Art
9 Committee; she also served as a member and community
10 representative of several Chicago Housing Authority working
11 groups and Chicago Park District advisory councils; and

12 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome committed to her faith at an
13 early age, first attending the West Side New Galilee
14 Missionary Baptist Church, where her father was pastor; she
15 became a member of Monumental Baptist Church in 1979 and
16 served in numerous leadership positions; and

17 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome's civic engagement and work was
18 highlighted by several organizations; she received several
19 community service awards from multiple organizations,
20 including Business & Professional People for the Public
21 Interest in 2002, Genesis Housing in 2005, and the Abraham
22 Lincoln Centre in 2006; she also received the Local
23 Initiatives Support Corporation's Community Heroes Award in
24 2009 and the Fourth Ward Democratic Organization's Leadership

1 Award in 2011; and

2 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome was a champion of Chicago and its
3 diverse communities, guiding Bronzeville, Hyde Park, Kenwood,
4 Oakland, Washington Park, and Woodlawn with goodness, dignity,
5 and truth; she will be remembered for her service and
6 dedication to her community's development, history, and
7 legacy; and

8 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome was preceded in death by her
9 parents; her husband, Howard Newsome; her son, Glenn M.
10 Murray; her sisters, Patricia Murray-Hymon and Stephanie James
11 Murray; and her brother, Kim Murray; and

12 WHEREAS, Shirley Newsome is survived by her sister, Ruby
13 J. Ruff; her brother, Rev. Charles Murray Jr.; her
14 granddaughter, Naquitta Dent; her three great-grandchildren;
15 other extended family; and her Monumental Baptist Church
16 family; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we mourn the passing of Shirley J. Newsome and extend our
20 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
21 and loved her; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Shirley Newsome as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.