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LRB103 31391 LAW 59016 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to commend Alderperson Leslie A. Hairston
4 on her service to the 5th Ward as a member of the Chicago City
5 Council; and

6 WHEREAS, Ald. Hairston is a Chicago native, having grown
7 up in the communities of 5th Ward's Hyde Park and South Shore;
8 she is the daughter of Reva Hairston, a Chicago Public Schools
9 educator for 43 years, and the late Lester Hairston, the owner
10 of the once popular Avenue Lounge and Chicago's first
11 African-American owner and operator of a McDonald's
12 restaurant; she graduated from the University of Wisconsin and
13 Loyola University School of Law; and

14 WHEREAS, Prior to being elected, Ald. Hairston worked as
15 an attorney in private practice; she formerly served as an
16 Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois in
17 Springfield; she handled litigation as a staff attorney and
18 special prosecutor for the Illinois Office of the State's
19 Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, where she argued before the
20 Illinois Supreme Court; and

21 WHEREAS, Ald. Hairston has represented the 5th Ward on the
22 Chicago City Council for 24 years, first being elected in 1999

1 and reelected in 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, and 2019; since
2 taking office, she has been instrumental in spearheading
3 infrastructure improvements, business development, and
4 initiatives to enhance 5th Ward residents' safety, security,
5 and quality of life; and

6 WHEREAS, Ald. Hairston has accrued several accomplishments
7 during her tenure, including the \$162 million reconstruction
8 of South Lake Shore Drive, the repair and enhancement of Metra
9 stations and grounds, renovations to Jackson Park and the
10 South Shore Cultural Center, improvements to residential and
11 commercial streets and lighting, the beautification of
12 business districts, and the opening of new shopping malls and
13 addition of several local and national retailers, including
14 K&G Fashion Superstore, Anna's Linens, Staples, Aldi,
15 Jewel-Osco, Save-A-Lot, and Chicago's first drive-through
16 Starbucks; and

17 WHEREAS, Ald. Hairston has additionally been involved with
18 initiating ordinances, increasing police presence, and the
19 construction of several buildings, including the Greater Grand
20 Crossing Library, the Gary Comer Youth Center, the Comer
21 Children's Hospital, and a Ronald McDonald House in addition
22 to the preservation of historically significant buildings
23 through renovation for multiuse; and

1 WHEREAS, Ald. Hairston has served as a vice chair on the
2 Chicago City Council's Committee on Finance and several joint
3 committees; she has also served as a member of the Committee on
4 Aviation, the Committee on Budget and Government Operations,
5 the Committee on Committees and Rules, and several joint
6 committees; and

7 WHEREAS, Ald. Hairston has belonged to a several community
8 organizations and causes, including the South Shore Cultural
9 Center Advisory Council, the Jackson Park Advisory Council,
10 the O'Keeffe Area Council, and Friends of the Parks; she is a
11 past member of the McFarland Mental Health Center with the
12 Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental
13 Disabilities and a former beat facilitator for the Chicago
14 Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS); she currently serves as
15 a board member of Kaleidoscope, Inc. and is an active member of
16 the Illinois State Bar Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha
17 Sorority, Inc.; and

18 WHEREAS, Ald. Hairston looks forward to starting the next
19 chapter of her life while remaining active, engaged, and
20 committed to making her community better; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
22 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
23 we commend Alderperson Leslie A. Hairston for her work on the

1 Chicago City Council, and we thank her for her years of
2 dedicated service to the people of the 5th Ward and the City of
3 Chicago; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Ald. Hairston as an expression of our esteem and
6 respect.