



SR1193

LRB103 42428 ECR 75658 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Jeff Fougousse on the occasion of his retirement from the Vernon Hills Park District; and

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WHEREAS, Jeff Fougousse has dedicated over 40 years of his life to Illinois parks and recreation, serving most recently as executive director of the Vernon Hills Park District since 2009; prior to that, he served as executive director of the Morton Grove Park District from 2000 to 2009 and as superintendent of Recreation & Facilities from 1987 to 2000; and

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WHEREAS, During his 15-year tenure as executive director, Jeff Fougousse exponentially grew the revenue of the Vernon Hills Park District by obtaining Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD), Park and Recreational Facilities Construction (PARC), and Capital grants; under his leadership, the Vernon Hills Park District has been recognized as an Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Distinguished Agency since 2006 and has expanded to include the Lakeview Fitness Center, the splash pad to the Turtle Creek Waterpark, a new park maintenance facility, a new skate park, and other features; and

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1 WHEREAS, Throughout his parks and recreation career, Jeff
2 Fougrousse has built valuable and collaborative relationships
3 with local, county, state, and federal elected officials,
4 initiated collaborations for local officials to meet regularly
5 to identify needs within the community, and increased the
6 number of successful intergovernmental agreements; and

7 WHEREAS, Jeff Fougrousse has belonged to a number of
8 professional organizations; he has been a member of the IPRA
9 since 1981, serving as a past chairman of the board in 1999 and
10 again in 2019 and on the IPRA Joint Conference Committee from
11 1994 to 1999, serving as chairman in 1999; in addition, he has
12 authored several articles for the IPRA magazine; he has
13 previously served as chairman of the Chicagoland Park
14 Directors' Association in 2001; he has also been a member of
15 the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) since
16 1986 and on the board of directors of the Maine Niles
17 Association of Special Recreation since 2000; and

18 WHEREAS, Jeff Fougrousse has worked tirelessly to advance
19 the parks and recreation industry while participating in a
20 variety of organizations, including his local YMCA, the
21 Mundelein & Vernon Hills Rotary Club, the Lions Club, the
22 Special Recreation District, the American Youth Soccer
23 Organization, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life,
24 the National Community Solutions Association for Homeless

1 Individuals, and the American Brain Tumor Association; and

2 WHEREAS, Jeff Fougrousse has been awarded numerous
3 honors, including receiving the NRPA Gold Medal in 2021 and
4 being named the IAPD Honored Professional of the Year in 2022;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Jeff Fougrousse, a certified park and recreation
7 professional, possesses a Master of Business Administration
8 from Aurora University and a Bachelor of Science from Illinois
9 State University; and

10 WHEREAS, Jeff Fougrousse and his wife are current
11 residents of Arlington Heights; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Jeff
14 Fougrousse on his retirement from the Vernon Hills Park
15 District, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors;
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented Jeff Fougrousse as a symbol of our esteem and
19 respect.