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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Deverra Beverly of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly served the City of Chicago for
over 30 years in the Department of Human Services; after
retiring in 1997, she was elected to the first of numerous
public housing resident leadership positions; she was the
President of the Chicago Housing Authority's ABLA Homes Local
Advisory Council, Vice-Chairman of the Central Advisory
Council (CAC) from 2002 to 2008, interim CAC Chair from 2008 to
2009, and CAC Treasurer in 2009; on July 22, 2009, Mayor
Richard M. Daley appointed her as a Commissioner on the Board
of Commissioners; and

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WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly emphasized the importance of
teamwork, relationship building, and openness; she touched
countless lives with the summer youth employment and
after-school programs she championed; she lobbied for bringing
in new construction jobs, tax assistance for seniors,
sustainable "green" initiatives, and "safe passage" routes to
combat violence and street gangs; and

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WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly's commitment to the betterment of
public housing was based on her having called public housing

1 home her entire life; she and her family moved into the Brooks
2 Homes section of the ABLA housing development in 1943; she made
3 the four housing projects of ABLA - the Jane Addams Homes, the
4 Robert Brooks Homes, Loomis Courts, and the Grace Abbott Homes
5 - known to the world by engaging national philanthropists like
6 Brad Pitt's Make it Right Foundation and attracting the motion
7 picture "Hardball" to film in her community; she joyfully
8 extended hospitality annually for 30 years at the ABLA Day
9 picnics, which brought together the residents of ABLA with
10 Aldermen, the Mayor, police, and other city officials; and

11 WHEREAS, As public housing buildings began to be torn down,
12 Deverra Beverly led efforts to protect the last remaining
13 building of the Jane Addams Homes; she envisioned transforming
14 the building into a place to memorialize, teach, and create a
15 new cultural commitment to the future of public housing; over
16 the course of a decade, her efforts led to the creation of the
17 National Public Housing Museum in 2007; and

18 WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly was preceded in death by her
19 parents, Clyde Archibald and Priscilla Foster; her husband,
20 William Pickens; her daughter, Christine Beverly; her son,
21 Eugene Beverly; and her grandson, Keith Rawls; and

22 WHEREAS, Deverra Beverly is survived by her sons, Kenneth,
23 Levert, Melvin, and William; her sisters, Rosetta and Mary Lou;

1 her 13 grandchildren; and a host of great-grandchildren;
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 Deverra Beverly, extend our sincere condolences to her family,
6 friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Deverra Beverly as an expression of
9 our deepest sympathy and in recognition of all she has
10 contributed to the people of the ABLA Homes.