



HJ0145

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On Wednesday, January 12, 2011, the City of
3 Chicago lost Hazel M. Johnson, the Mother of Environmental
4 Justice; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hazel Johnson, a longtime resident of Altgeld
6 Gardens, worked tirelessly to bring a change to the
7 environmental conditions on the far South Side of the City; and

8 WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Mrs. Hazel Johnson founded a group
9 called People for Community Recovery and put pressure on the
10 Chicago Housing Authority to remove asbestos from Altgeld
11 Gardens; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hazel Johnson's work in the community
13 introduced her to a young organizer named Barack Obama, who
14 worked closely with her on the asbestos abatement effort; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hazel Johnson was instrumental in convincing
16 city health officials to test drinking water at Maryland Manor,
17 a far South Side neighborhood, where they found cyanide and
18 toxins in the water; and

19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hazel Johnson joined a group of activists in
20 urging President Bill Clinton to sign the Environmental Justice

1 Executive Order, which holds the federal government
2 responsible for communities exposed to pollution; therefore,
3 be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
6 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the portion of
7 130th Street from the Bishop Ford Freeway to State Street in
8 Chicago as the "Hazel Johnson EJ Way"; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is
10 requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with State
11 and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving
12 notice of the name of the "Hazel Johnson EJ Way"; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 presented to Cheryl Johnson, the daughter of the Mother of
16 Environmental Justice, and the Secretary of Transportation.