



HR0460

LRB101 12794 ALS 61628 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the City of Fairview Heights on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, Germans and other European immigrants established farms in the Fairview Heights area, then known as Ridge Prairie, by the mid 1800s; early pioneers included Irishman William Kinsella, great-grandfather of Marilyn Kinsella, a storyteller, retired educator, and member of the 50th anniversary committee; his two-story, hand-hewn log cabin, which was built in 1854, still stands in Pleasant Ridge Park; and

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WHEREAS, One of the community's early hubs was the intersection of what is now Bunkum Road and Lincoln Trail, where there was a brickyard, a farmhouse that served as an inn, and the original one-room Grant School; the tavern and trading post operated by Henry Becherer, later known as the Ridge Prairie Saloon, was another center of activity; and

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WHEREAS, The first of seven coal mines opened in 1903; the name Fairview was first used in an advertisement by a land developer after the streetcar was extended to the area in an effort to appeal to people living in St. Louis; Raymond

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1 Fairbrother, a resident from East St. Louis, platted the first
2 residential subdivisions in 1906; posters described the
3 subdivision as a place "where life is worth living"; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1914, local residents formed the Fairview
5 Improvement Association and raised money for sidewalks and
6 roads; a mercantile store, owned by the Shively family and
7 later the Gaidos, opened in 1916; East St. Louis Light and
8 Power Company began delivering electricity in 1924; the
9 association bought a used fire truck in 1933, leading to the
10 organization of a volunteer fire department; throughout the
11 1940s and 1950s, subdivisions, stores, and restaurants were
12 developed; and

13 WHEREAS, One of the most notable landmarks, St. Albert the
14 Great Catholic Parish's round church, was built in 1967; by the
15 mid 1960s, local residents began asking for a post office; a
16 referendum was held to decide whether to call the area Ridge
17 Prairie, Lincoln Heights, or Fairview Heights; the later won by
18 a three-to-one margin; residents voted to incorporate in a
19 special election on September 27, 1969; and

20 WHEREAS, Warren Baker was appointed as temporary city clerk
21 and helped to plan the first Fairview Heights Election on
22 December 16, 1969; voters elected Everett Moody as Mayor and
23 Les Klein as City Clerk; Charles Baricevic, father of former

1 St. Clair County Board Chairman and Chief Circuit Judge John
2 Baricevic, was an original alderman; the City bought its first
3 fleet of four police cars at the Oliver Dee Joseph dealership
4 in Belleville; Longacre Park, later renamed Moody Park, was
5 dedicated in 1976; a year later, the old Pleasant View
6 tuberculosis sanitorium was purchased and converted into City
7 Hall; and

8 WHEREAS, Fairview Heights saw the construction of its first
9 large discount store, Venture, in 1969; Macy's opened in 1973,
10 and St. Clair Square, a two-level shopping mall, opened a year
11 later; the metro-east section of Interstate 64, which traced
12 U.S. 50 and improved access for shoppers throughout the region,
13 opened in 1975; commercial growth continued in the 1990s with
14 the construction of the Stonewolf Golf Club, the Four Points by
15 Sheraton Conference Center, and the 280,000-square-foot
16 Fairview Heights Shopping Center; a MetroLink stop opened in
17 2001; and

18 WHEREAS, Today, the City of Fairview Heights has evolved
19 into a shopping mecca that attracts people from all over the
20 region; it issues nearly 1,000 licenses to stores, restaurants,
21 hotels, and other businesses annually; it is one of the few
22 municipalities that does not levy property taxes, and most
23 government programs and services are funded by sales tax
24 revenue; the population is just over 17,000; because of the

1 shopping, dining, and other commerce, including the people who
2 work in the City, the population swells to 50,000 by day and
3 can go up to 70,000 during the peak holiday season; the City
4 employs 42 police officers; and

5 WHEREAS, A committee has planned eight public events to
6 celebrate the City's anniversary, including the early-May
7 opening of The Rec, Heritage Day, a concert at Moody Park, a
8 cake decorating contest, a time capsule burial, a parade and
9 Party in the Park, an open house at City Hall, and an
10 Anniversary Ball; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we congratulate the City of Fairview Heights on the occasion of
14 its 50th anniversary and wish the City many more successful
15 years; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to Mayor Mark Kupsy as an expression of our esteem
18 and respect.