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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, City of Aurora's Mayor Weisner recognized Bill Powell's gifted leadership within the city's police force and named him Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, Chief Bill Powell grew up on the south side of Chicago; he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1970, where he served as an Air Freight and Air Passenger Specialist and recruiter; he returned to civilian law enforcement at the Illinois Youth Center in Geneva; in 1977, he joined the city's police force as only the fourth African-American police officer in the history of the city; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, he was promoted to the position of Sergeant; seven years later, he was promoted to the position of Lieutenant; early this year, he was promoted to the position of Commander; and

WHEREAS, Chief Powell is a truly remarkable leader and a man who has spent his career bucking racism and blazing new trails for people of color throughout the community; he has served as a role-model for our younger generation, teaching them that with perseverance, honor, and dedication to duty, the highest goals are achievable regardless of skin color; and

WHEREAS, He and his wife, Christine, have four children, Brenda, Diane, Yhana, and Alicia; he is a classic car enthusiast, an avid football fan, and a well-traveled grandfather; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we honor Chief Powell as the City of Aurora's first African-American police chief; we congratulate him on his 28 years of exceptional service and extend to him our best wishes

1 for many more years of continued service; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to Chief Powell as an expression of our admiration
4 and esteem.