



HR0740

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Richard D. Grodsky on his retirement from the Elmhurst Park District; and

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WHEREAS, Richard D. Grodsky has been an advocate for the parks and recreation profession and the residents of the communities he has served for over 30 years, starting his career in 1977; and

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WHEREAS, He has spread his mission to improve the quality of life of communities by providing, enhancing, and expanding park and recreation opportunities for all ages; during his career and most recently, at the Elmhurst Park District, he was instrumental in initiating and implementing the following initiatives: he obtained numerous legislative member initiative and Illinois Department of Natural Resources grants totaling over \$10 million, working closely with State-elected officials and agencies; he redeveloped multi-million dollar facilities to improve and expand recreational opportunities such as outdoor pools, community centers, fitness centers, historical buildings, golf courses, and concession facilities; and

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WHEREAS, He built the Salt Creek Greenway Trail with grants

1 of over \$2.2 million dollars; a 30-mile greenway spanning 2
2 counties and 3.5 miles through Elmhurst; he redeveloped
3 hundreds of parks and playgrounds in communities throughout the
4 Chicagoland area; he negotiated intergovernmental and
5 interagency agreements with colleges, school districts,
6 cultural institutions, and health care organizations and
7 hospitals, which have saved taxpayers hundreds of thousands of
8 dollars in funds; and

9 WHEREAS, He was fiscally responsible by building and
10 restructuring finances through sound fiscal management to
11 ensure that taxpayer funds were responsibly invested back into
12 the community; he purchased over 24 acres of property to
13 increase the Elmhurst Park District's open space and enhance
14 park and recreation opportunities in the community; he served
15 on numerous Boards and Committees including the Illinois
16 Association of Park District's/Illinois Park and Recreation
17 Association Joint Legislative Committee and the University of
18 Illinois Alumni Association Board; and

19 WHEREAS, He was elected to the American Association of Park
20 and Recreation Administrators; he received accreditation and
21 re-accreditation for the Elmhurst Park District as an Illinois
22 Distinguished Agency by the Illinois Association of Park
23 Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association
24 (1999-2016); and

1 WHEREAS, During his time with the Elmhurst Park District,
2 the District was awarded the Government Finance Officers
3 Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award
4 (2007-2011) and Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in
5 Financial Reporting (2007-10); the Governor's Sustainability
6 Award (2010-11); and the Illinois Park and Recreation
7 Association Outstanding Facility Award for 6 facilities; and

8 WHEREAS, During his time with the Elmhurst Park District,
9 the District was a finalist in the National Gold Medal Award
10 for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management (2006-08,
11 2010-11); he was the recipient of the Illinois Association of
12 Park District's Chairman's Award (2004) and the Illinois Park
13 and Recreation Association Robert Artz Professional of the Year
14 (2007); therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we congratulate Richard Grodsky on his retirement and wish him
18 continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Richard Grodsky as a symbol of our respect and
22 esteem.