



HR0966

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, One hundred and seventeen years ago, Riverdale,
3 the "Best Little Village in Illinois," was formed; the village
4 is located 23 miles south of the Chicago Loop; and

5 WHEREAS, The Village of Riverdale is home to the State's
6 largest butternut tree (*Juglans cinerea*), the official tree of
7 Riverdale; and

8 WHEREAS, Notable and outstanding characteristics of
9 Riverdale's urban forest are a unique diversity of Southern
10 trees, which are common in the Chicago area, including Shumard
11 Oaks (*Quercus shumardii*), Sweet gums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*),
12 Cumber Trees (*Magnolia acuminata*), Flowering Dogwoods (*Cornus
13 florida*), and White Basswoods (*Tilia hereophylla*); the village
14 also has outstanding fall color displayed on major streets by
15 Sugar Maples (*Acer saccharinum*), Red Maples (*Acer rubrum*),
16 White Ashes (*Fraxinus americana*), and Sweet gums (*Liquidambar
17 styraciflua*), as well as a rare bird migration through the
18 urban forest of the east Ivanhoe section; all of this activity
19 is packed into a village with a residential population of
20 16,050; and

21 WHEREAS, The Village of Riverdale's Board of Trustees
22 created a Riverdale Tree Commission in 2002, composed of

1 volunteer residents and an arborist; the commission's purpose
2 is to design and implement the Village Tree Program and conduct
3 community-wide educational efforts to publicize the benefits
4 of trees; and

5 WHEREAS, The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized
6 the Village of Riverdale as a "Tree City USA" community for 11
7 years, honoring the commitment of the village to provide a
8 comprehensive community forestry program; and

9 WHEREAS, The majestic urban forest cools the air, provides
10 oxygen, shades homes and outdoor activities from the sun,
11 invites song birds into backyards and gardens, lines streets
12 (where the trees reach a height of 100 feet and are over 3 feet
13 wide), muffles noise, protects the soil, improves air quality,
14 provides beauty, and serve as a windbreak; 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 support the Village of Riverdale Tree Commission's continued
18 active participation in shaping Riverdale, the "Best Little
19 Village In Illinois", into a "Green" community; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the Riverdale Tree Commission as a symbol of our

1 esteem and respect.