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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, 300 years ago people of African descent were forcibly brought to Illinois as slaves; and

WHEREAS, The French brought the first slaves of African descent to Illinois Country in or around 1720; at that point, slave labor became the economic engine responsible for Illinois developing one of the largest economies in the world; and

WHEREAS, Slaves of African descent in Illinois Country worked in the lead mines and the American Bottom, famous for its fertile soil, in the modern day Metro East area; they also provided free labor for the highly profitable saltworks industries in the Salines; and

WHEREAS, Slaves of African descent were required to till the land, plant crops, forge and mine for lead, make lucrative salt, construct infrastructure, and build shelter in the following Illinois counties: Alexander, Jackson, Randolph, Gallatin, Franklin, Pope, Jefferson, Johnson, Wayne, Hamilton, White, Fayette, Union, Marion, Monroe, St. Clair, Madison, Bond, Washington, Montgomery, Green, Pike, Sangamon, Morgan, Fulton, Edgar, Clark, Crawford, Lawrence, and Edwards; many of these counties have been further subdivided in mid-2020; for example, modern day Pulaski, Massac, Saline, Hardin, Perry,

1 Effingham, and Williamson counties were all pro-slavery
2 counties; and

3 WHEREAS, The French had a specific law called Code Noir,
4 designed to oversee the slaves of African descent in the Metro
5 East area; Code Noir was first implemented in Haiti in 1685 to
6 regulate the slave trade of people of African descent; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1763, after France's loss to the British in the
8 French and Indian War, Illinois Country was ceded to the
9 British via the Treaty of Paris; at that point, Britain had
10 established itself as the dominant colonial power in North
11 America; and

12 WHEREAS, Like the French, the British had long-standing
13 laws for regulating slaves of African descent in the Metro
14 East; beginning with the Barbados Slave Code of 1661, the
15 British continued to revise their Slave Codes in various
16 jurisdictions and ultimately shaped the body of law supporting
17 Slave Codes and Black Laws in Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1789, following Britain's loss in the American
19 Revolutionary War, Illinois Country became part of the new
20 Northwest Territory; even though slavery was prohibited in the
21 Northwest Territory by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, most
22 territorial governors ignored the slavery ban and continued

1 profiting from African descent slave labor; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1800, Illinois Country was absorbed into the
3 Indiana Territory as America began to expand west by war or
4 purchase; notably, the Indiana Territory had its own Slave
5 Codes on the books entitled "An Act Concerning the Introduction
6 of Negroes and Mulattoes into this Territory"; these Slave
7 Codes allowed people of African descent to be brought into the
8 territory and indentured; and

9 WHEREAS, In Gallatin County, African descent slave labor
10 was the catalyst for Illinois Country reaching a very large
11 agreement with the federal government regarding the abundance
12 of salt springs in the region of the Wabash and Saline rivers;
13 the two principal springs were known as the Half Moon Lick and
14 Nigger Springs; there were salines in Vermilion County, the Big
15 Muddy Saline and a saline at St. Genevieve, Missouri, but the
16 Gallatin County saline produced more than all the others
17 combined; and

18 WHEREAS, An Act of Congress dated March 26, 1804 provided
19 among other things that "all salt springs, licks, wells with
20 the necessary land adjacent thereto were reserved from sale as
21 the property of the United States."; the territorial governor
22 of Illinois Country was authorized to lease these salt wells
23 and springs to the best interests of the general government; on

1 April 30, 1804, Governor Harrison appointed Isaac White of
2 Vincennes to be a government agent and reside at the works and
3 collect the revenue due America; he assumed his duties and was
4 assisted by John Marshall, who probably resided at Shawneetown;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, In 1809, propelled by its slave labor, Illinois
7 became its own territory after being severed from Indiana
8 Territory; people of African descent in the new Illinois
9 Territory continued to be subjected to the body of law
10 contained in the Indiana Slave Codes; and

11 WHEREAS, Not even three decades after the signing of the
12 Treaty of Paris, which formalized Britain's recognition of the
13 United States of America, the two countries were again in
14 conflict in the War of 1812; resentment for Britain's
15 interference with American international trade, combined with
16 American expansionist visions, led Congress to declare war on
17 Great Britain on June 18, 1812; and

18 WHEREAS, At this point, Illinois had to prove to the
19 pro-expansion supporters that it was capable of producing
20 benefits and revenue to help the U.S. both finance wars and
21 acquire more land; African descent slave labor from the
22 saltworks was key to Illinois' success in this regard; and

1 WHEREAS, On April 8, 1818, President James Monroe signed
2 into law "An Act to Enable the People of Illinois Territory to
3 form a constitution and state government and for the admission
4 of such state into the Union on an equal footing with the
5 original states."; Illinois was now a state on the path to a
6 burgeoning economy largely driven by African descent slave
7 labor; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1818, Illinois became a state divided between
9 English-speaking and French-speaking citizens; the first
10 Governor of the State of Illinois, Shadrach Bond, held slaves
11 of African descent; he further supported the introduction of a
12 pro-slave constitution; in a three-way race, French-speaking
13 Pierre Menard won the race for lieutenant governor; Menard also
14 held slaves of African descent; and

15 WHEREAS, When the 1818 Illinois Constitution was adopted,
16 it revised several aspects of the status of slaves of African
17 descent to conform with the federal guidelines for statehood;
18 for example, it is clear that Illinois simply abolished slavery
19 to comply with the federal balance of slave states versus
20 non-slave states in the new America; and

21 WHEREAS, The 1818 Illinois Constitution additionally
22 limited the right to vote to free white men, excluding all
23 others; Illinois also constitutionally excluded people of

1 African descent from serving in the militia; in other words,
2 Illinois would not be policed by anyone of African descent and
3 would remain a slave state; and

4 WHEREAS, The Constitution further kept an exemption
5 allowing slavery at the Illinois salines and other salt springs
6 near Shawneetown; according to historians, African descent
7 slave-operated saltworks contributed one-third of the revenue
8 for the new Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, The initial legislatures followed the examples of
10 the French and British Slave Codes and their own beliefs when
11 they created Black Codes, effectively establishing two classes
12 of citizenship in Illinois; the new legislatures, sitting in
13 Vandalia, focused on restricting the movement of people of
14 African descent and made significant financial investments
15 into the state's roads, bridges, and yet another economic
16 engine, prisons; and

17 WHEREAS, The new legislatures passed laws requiring people
18 of African descent to produce on demand a Certificate of
19 Freedom, verifying that they were a free person of color;
20 people of African descent were additionally required to post a
21 bond guaranteeing their good behavior under the new Black
22 Codes; and

1 WHEREAS, Notably, the good behavior bond requirements
2 ranged as high as \$1,000, which was virtually unobtainable for
3 people of African descent at that time; consequently, most
4 people of African descent had to rely on a white person to
5 serve as their surety when posting their good behavior bond;
6 this was equally unobtainable for a person of African descent;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The Black Codes received their first test in the
9 elections of 1822; the governor's race had four candidates, two
10 judges, a business man, and the eventual winner, a true
11 anti-slavery candidate; and

12 WHEREAS, The pro-slavery faction carried both houses of the
13 legislature in the 1822 elections; yet, the pro-slavery faction
14 split the vote in the governor's race allowing Edward Coles, a
15 former federal envoy from Virginia, to win by a small margin;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Governor Coles, who had earlier emancipated his
18 own slaves of African descent and purchased land for them,
19 pursued an ambitious anti-slavery plan; he sought to free the
20 remaining slaves in Illinois (those who had been in the land
21 before the ordinance of 1789), loosen the harsh Black Codes,
22 and stop the kidnapping and enslavement of free people of
23 African descent; and

1 WHEREAS, The pro-slavery legislature was not interested in
2 such a proposal; instead, it recommended that a referendum
3 question be put on the ballot asking voters to decide whether
4 Illinois should call a constitutional convention and amend its
5 constitution to become a slave state; and

6 WHEREAS, Such a measure required a two-thirds majority in
7 the legislature; while the state Senate garnered the votes for
8 the proposal, it seemed destined to fall one vote short in the
9 House of Representatives; however, the pro-slavery forces in
10 the legislature unseated a man whose election had been
11 disputed, and they replaced him with one who supported their
12 slave state objective; the convention measure passed; and

13 WHEREAS, Citizens celebrated in the streets, holding
14 processions, parades, and public dinners; at one, this toast
15 was said to be offered, "The State of Illinois: the ground is
16 good, prairie in abundance; give us plenty of negroes, a little
17 industry, and she will distribute her treasures."; and

18 WHEREAS, The next election was August 2, 1824; the
19 political campaign that ensued was impassioned, fractious, and
20 intense; the subject was addressed tirelessly in the pulpits
21 and the newspapers; the turnout on August 2nd was enormous
22 compared with the presidential election that fall, where 4,532

1 votes were cast in Illinois; and

2 WHEREAS, On the slavery question in August of 1824, 11,612
3 went to the polls; when the votes were counted, the pro-slavery
4 faction lost, 6,640 to 4,972; and

5 WHEREAS, The following counties voted in favor of Illinois
6 becoming a slave state in 1824: Alexander, Jackson, Randolph
7 (the home county of the first lieutenant governor and
8 slaveowner Pierre Menard), Gallatin (saltworks), Franklin,
9 Pope, Jefferson, Wayne, Hamilton, White, and Fayette; and

10 WHEREAS, In August of 1824, Johnson County voted equally on
11 the question of whether Illinois should become a slave state;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The following counties voted in opposition to
14 Illinois becoming a slave state in 1824: Union, Marion, Monroe,
15 St. Clair, Madison, Bond, Washington, Montgomery, Green, Pike,
16 Sangamon, Morgan, Fulton, Edgar, Clark, Crawford, Lawrence,
17 and Edwards; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1827, Illinois intensified production in its
19 African descent slave saltworks to obtain federal funding for
20 infrastructure and capital improvements; after intense
21 negotiations, Illinois ultimately passed a capital bill with

1 federal funds tied to revenue from the saltworks; and

2 WHEREAS, The captured federal funds for capital
3 improvements were distributed using a regional approach; the
4 eastern half of the state invested its portion of capital funds
5 in infrastructure, roads, and bridges, all to be supported by
6 African descent labor; and

7 WHEREAS, The western portion of the state invested in the
8 privatization of a new business, prisons; in 1831, the Illinois
9 State Penitentiary was built in Alton, with large cost overruns
10 because of soil integrity issues; much later, a prison now
11 known as Menard Correctional Center followed in Randolph
12 County; and

13 WHEREAS, During this time, the industrial revolution in
14 Great Britain was intensifying, leading to more opportunities
15 for Illinois businesses; Europe's textile factories needed
16 more cotton that was produced by slave labor, and the world
17 demand was increasing for salt, lead, and coal; and

18 WHEREAS, The 1840 Illinois Constitution specifically
19 banned slavery in section 16 of its Declaration of Rights,
20 specifying "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary
21 servitude in the State, except as a punishment for crime
22 whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."; however, it

1 included a requirement that the General Assembly pass laws to
2 prohibit the emigration of free African Americans into the
3 state and to bar slaveholders from bringing slaves into the
4 state for the purpose of freeing them; and

5 WHEREAS, There was, of course, opposition; the "Colored
6 People of Chicago", for example, met to draft resolutions
7 opposing the new constitution and the "unjust and partial laws"
8 in the state, but the General Assembly failed to adopt them;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The 1848 Illinois Constitution continued to limit
11 the right to vote to only white males and excluded people of
12 African descent from serving in the militia; and

13 WHEREAS, Subsequent legislation led to one of the most
14 restrictive Black Code systems in the nation until the American
15 Civil War; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1848, Belleville in the Metro East became home
17 to the first underground coal mining operation; the new
18 industry spread along shipping areas to ease access to large
19 commercial centers like St. Louis and Chicago; however, it was
20 not until the Civil War, when Illinois railroads grew by leaps
21 and bounds, that coal mining in Southern Illinois began to
22 rapidly develop; and

1 WHEREAS, The broader tri-state area lead mining region, the
2 coal region in northern Illinois at the end of the nineteenth
3 century, centered around places like Spring Valley, Braidwood,
4 and Coal City, and the area around Vermilion County and
5 Danville all had significant numbers of miners of African
6 descent; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Secretary of State's
8 current website, "The 1853 Black Law passed in Illinois was
9 considered the harshest of all discriminatory Black Laws passed
10 by Northern states before the Civil War."; and

11 WHEREAS, The 1853 Black Law prohibited any person of
12 African descent from outside of the state from staying in
13 Illinois for more than ten days, and if a person of African
14 descent remained beyond the ten-day period, they would be
15 subject to arrest, detention, a \$50 fine, or deportation; and

16 WHEREAS, The 1853 Black Law was often a tool used against
17 whole communities when white citizens found that the increase
18 in black population had reached an unacceptable level; people
19 of African descent who violated the law faced punishments that
20 included being advertised and sold at public auction; and

21 WHEREAS, The 1853 Black Law served, according to one

1 author, "as grinding reminders of apartheid intentions and
2 legal subjugation, and they offered white authorities and mobs
3 excuses for harassment and violence against blacks."; and

4 WHEREAS, A wealthy freeman of African descent by the name
5 of John Jones was instrumental in repealing the 1853 Black Law;
6 with prodding from John Jones and the logic propelled by the
7 results of the Civil War, the Illinois General Assembly
8 repealed the Black Laws in early 1865; and

9 WHEREAS, The repeal of the Black Laws did not confer
10 suffrage or civil rights on the state's people of African
11 descent; instead, they had to wait for ratification of the 14th
12 and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and the Illinois
13 Civil Rights Act of 1885; and

14 WHEREAS, The 14th Amendment was passed in 1868 to help
15 ensure the rights of newly freed people of African descent; men
16 of African descent were given the right to vote in 1870 by the
17 passage of the 15th Amendment; and

18 WHEREAS, The 1870 Illinois Constitution also provided
19 those rights; the Illinois Civil Rights Act of 1885 was also
20 passed forbidding discrimination in public facilities and
21 places, such as hotels, railroads, theaters, and restaurants;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, In the midst of these Constitutional wins,
2 pro-slavery, segregation, and disenfranchisement laws know as
3 "Jim Crow" were enacted; these laws required de jure
4 segregation in all public places and a specific etiquette,
5 while supposedly creating a separate but equal position for
6 people of African descent; and

7 WHEREAS, Unfortunately for the people of African descent,
8 the United States Supreme Court helped undermine their
9 Constitutional protections with the infamous Plessy v.
10 Ferguson (1896) case; this decision legitimized the
11 pro-slavery Jim Crow laws and the Jim Crow etiquette; and

12 WHEREAS, The Civil War Reconstruction period brought a
13 migration of people of African descent to Cairo in Alexander
14 County; racial tensions under pro-slavery Jim Crow were always
15 high in the community, but as the shipping and ferrying
16 industries declined, jobs grew more scarce, and the racial
17 unrest intensified; and

18 WHEREAS, Moreover, these laws solidified the position that
19 America had two sets of citizens, those of European descent, or
20 first class citizens, and people of African descent, or second
21 class citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, Jim Crow etiquette further separated and
2 essentially enslaved people of African descent; for example, a
3 male person of African descent could not offer his hand to
4 shake hands with a white male because it implied being socially
5 equal; and

6 WHEREAS, At the same time, a male person of African descent
7 could not offer his hand or any other part of his body to a
8 white woman because he risked being accused of rape; and

9 WHEREAS, Similarly, people of African descent and white
10 people were not supposed to eat together; if they did eat
11 together, whites were to be served first, and some sort of
12 partition was to be placed between them; and

13 WHEREAS, Without exception, a male person of African
14 descent was not to offer to light the cigarette of a white
15 woman; such a gesture would imply intimacy; and

16 WHEREAS, People of African descent were not allowed to show
17 public affection toward one another in public, especially
18 kissing, because it offended whites; and

19 WHEREAS, Pro-slavery Jim Crow etiquette required that
20 people of African descent be first introduced to white people,
21 never the opposite; at the same time, white people were not to

1 use courtesy titles of respect when referring to people of
2 African descent (i.e. Mr., Mrs., Miss., Sir, or Ma'am); and

3 WHEREAS, Instead, people of African descent were called by
4 their first names and had to use courtesy titles when referring
5 to white people; people of African descent were not allowed to
6 call white people by their first names; for example: "Mr.
7 Reagan (the white person), this is Malcolm (the person of
8 African descent), that I spoke to you about."; and

9 WHEREAS, With respect to transportation, if a person of
10 African descent rode in a car driven by a white person, the
11 person of African descent sat in the back seat or the back of a
12 truck; and

13 WHEREAS, Finally, white motorists had the right-of-way at
14 all intersections; and

15 WHEREAS, These pro-slavery Jim Crow laws sparked race riots
16 in Illinois as people of African descent began to relocate from
17 the South; the first race riot occurred in 1908 in Springfield;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The fact that the riots occurred in Illinois, "The
20 Land of Lincoln", proved that people of African descent were
21 mistreated and brutalized not only in the south but everywhere;

1 in this case, a white mob of 5,000 people beat people of
2 African descent throughout Sangamon county; and

3 WHEREAS, In mid-August 1908, the white population of
4 Springfield reacted to reports that a white woman had been
5 assaulted in her home by a man of African descent; soon
6 afterward, another instance of an assault by a man of African
7 descent on a white woman was reported; these incidents, coming
8 within hours of each other, sparked a gathering of a mob; and

9 WHEREAS, Mob leaders carefully directed the participants
10 to destroy only homes and businesses either owned by blacks or
11 which served black patrons, thus leaving nearby white homes and
12 businesses untouched; and

13 WHEREAS, This white mob looted businesses that served those
14 of African descent and lynched several people of African
15 descent; and

16 WHEREAS, Throughout World War I, people of African descent
17 continued migrating north for jobs, education, and
18 opportunities and to escape Jim Crow; another race riot
19 occurred in East St. Louis in 1917; and

20 WHEREAS, Up to 250 people of African descent were beaten,
21 shot, lynched, and killed; nine white people were killed, and

1 6,000 people of African descent were left homeless; and

2 WHEREAS, A large number of people of African descent fled
3 East St. Louis; the enrollment in local public schools
4 plummeted by 35% in the fall; in other words, 1 out of 3
5 children left the City of East St. Louis after the riots of
6 1917; and

7 WHEREAS, From 1918-1919, the Spanish Flu pandemic killed
8 23,500 people in Illinois and 675,000 in America; and

9 WHEREAS, At the same time, the summer of 1919 was called
10 "the Red Summer" due to the bloodbath in race riots in 26
11 American cities, including 38 people killed in a Chicago race
12 riot; and

13 WHEREAS, Chicago was a laboratory for segregation; the
14 tools of analyzing real estate and racial data were being
15 created in Chicago in the early 20th century; other tools, such
16 as restrictive covenants, to segregate the city based on race
17 were created in Chicago; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1927, the City of Chicago continued with racist
19 housing practices during the Great Migration; the Chicago Real
20 Estate Board (CREB) sent representatives throughout the city to
21 promote restrictive covenants; and

1 WHEREAS, The board representatives provided model
2 contracts drafted by the Chicago Plan Commission as part of
3 their efforts; by 1928, the Hyde Park Herald reported that the
4 covenants prevailed throughout the South Side; and

5 WHEREAS, Most neighborhoods of people of African descent
6 were bounded by covenanted areas, since 85% of Chicago was
7 covenanted; and

8 WHEREAS, After the stock market crash of 1929, FDR
9 introduced the New Deal; contained in this bold plan was the
10 creation of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) with the
11 purpose of aiding homeowners in default to prevent
12 foreclosures; and

13 WHEREAS, In the early 1930s, it was soon discovered that
14 pro-slavery ideals remained in housing; the racist attitudes
15 and language found in HOLC appraisal sheets and Residential
16 Security Maps created by the HOLC gave federal support to
17 racist land use practices that helped to further marginalize
18 people of African descent in Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, This practice of "redlining" in the 1930s locked
20 neighborhoods of African descent into concentrated poverty by
21 systematically diminishing home ownership, home values, and

1 median credit scores; and

2 WHEREAS, During World War II, people of African descent
3 emigrating to Chicago were directed to the "Black Belt" for
4 their housing needs; this area was generally bounded between
5 12th and 79th streets and Wentworth and Cottage Grove avenues;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 60,000 people of African descent
8 moved to Chicago during 1940 to 1944 in search of jobs; in an
9 effort to keep the newly arriving people of African descent out
10 of their neighborhoods, white people formed restrictive
11 covenants; and

12 WHEREAS, This housing system in Chicago led to overcrowding
13 in the Black Belt; such overcrowding, while difficult in
14 itself, also contributed to generally poor housing conditions
15 for people of African descent; and

16 WHEREAS, Demand for housing far exceeded its supply after
17 World War II; this led to rent gouging, a practice where
18 exorbitant rental amounts were charged for small kitchenettes
19 with no heat, no bathroom, and deplorable conditions; and

20 WHEREAS, These conditions of ramshackle and dangerous
21 housing, neglect and indifference from city officials, and poor

1 sanitation resulted in infestation by rats in the Black Belt;
2 infant mortality and overall death rates were higher in the
3 Black Belt than in the rest of Chicago; and

4 WHEREAS, The "Southern Illinois Black Belt" in East St.
5 Louis has an aging housing stock where people of African
6 descent have lived since 1720; in 1985, as the housing stock
7 aged and there were inadequate resources to preserve it, HUD
8 placed the East St. Louis public housing system under federal
9 administrative receivership; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Government Accountability
11 Office, "[r]eceiverships at housing authorities have generally
12 resulted from long-standing, severe, and persistent management
13 problems that led to deterioration of the housing stock."; and

14 WHEREAS, Yet, for 32 years, HUD did little to
15 comprehensively address issues concerning the aging complexes
16 in East St. Louis, which severely compromised the housing stock
17 for the people of African descent in East St. Louis; many of
18 the people of African descent say that the public housing stock
19 was infested with rats; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2017, HUD officially transitioned housing
21 authority of the City of East St. Louis to local control after
22 32 years of federal administrative receivership; HUD's

1 oversight of East St. Louis was the first and longest
2 receivership of a local public housing authority in HUD's
3 history; and

4 WHEREAS, The East St. Louis housing authority may be
5 eligible for Replacement Housing Factor Fund grants, which are
6 awarded to housing authorities that have removed units from
7 inventory for the purpose of developing new public housing
8 units; and

9 WHEREAS, Only two other housing authorities in America are
10 under federal administrative receivership; one is in Cairo, and
11 the other is in Gary, Indiana, just outside of Chicago; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1988, after electing a person of African
13 descent as mayor, some white residents living in Chicago's
14 "Bungalow Belt" (i.e. single-family homes built in the 1910s
15 and 1920s in a collar on the northwest side and southwest side
16 of Chicago's city limits), pushed for reforms and insurance if
17 persons of African descent moved into the Bungalow Belt and
18 property values dropped; in response, the legislature created
19 three home equity taxing districts for the white home owners
20 living in the Bungalow Belt; and

21 WHEREAS, On a most basic level, all homeowners in these
22 taxing districts pay a small tax to a fund; homeowners

1 voluntarily enroll in the equity program, and if the appraisal
2 is less than the original purchase price when they decide to
3 sell then that homeowner receives a cash claim for the
4 difference; very few, if any, people of African descent are
5 enrolled in this well-funded program; and

6 WHEREAS, In February of 2016, the Alexander County Housing
7 Authority in Cairo (ACHA) was placed under federal
8 administrative receivership; there was strong evidence that
9 the ACHA failed to maintain the Elmwood and McBride complexes,
10 resulting in significant degradation in the quality of the
11 housing in Cairo where people of African descent reside; and

12 WHEREAS, A year later, HUD announced to 185 families that
13 the Elmwood and McBride housing complexes in Cairo would be
14 closed and its residents relocated; this meant that almost 400
15 people would be forced to leave the city as there was not
16 sufficient HUD-sanctioned housing in town; and

17 WHEREAS, In reported interviews, HUD explained it was
18 hesitant to take Cairo into receivership as it could take many
19 years to execute, require four to five full-time employees, and
20 cost more than \$5 million; and

21 WHEREAS, From 2012 to 2018, for every \$1 banks loaned in
22 Chicago's white neighborhoods, they invested just 12 cents in

1 the city's neighborhoods of African descent; JPMorgan Chase,
2 for instance, lent 41 times more money in Chicago's white
3 neighborhoods than African-descent neighborhoods; and

4 WHEREAS, During that same time period, Bank of America lent
5 29 times more money in Chicago's white communities than it did
6 in African-descent communities; Wells Fargo lent 10 times more
7 in white areas than African-descent areas, and Guaranteed Rate
8 lent 15 times more in Chicago's white communities than its
9 African-descent communities; and

10 WHEREAS, The air quality in communities of African descent
11 is far below acceptable standards; the National Resources
12 Defense Council (NRDC) recently reported that people of African
13 descent in minority neighborhoods on the West and South Sides
14 of Chicago have the greatest exposure to toxic air pollution
15 and other environmental health hazards in the city; and

16 WHEREAS, The communities of Englewood and Roseland rank
17 remarkably high for pollution exposure in Chicago according to
18 the NRDC; Chicago has acknowledged that there are
19 disproportionate pollution problems across Chicago; and

20 WHEREAS, Midway through 2020, the world faces a pandemic
21 like it did in 1920; so far, this pandemic has killed 120,000
22 in the U.S.; in Illinois, as of May 15, 2020, approximately

1 6,300 Illinoisans have died; and

2 WHEREAS, During the course of this pandemic, like it did in
3 1920, racial uprisings occurred throughout communities of
4 African descent after a white police officer, while on openly
5 conspicuous videotape, suffocated a man of African descent for
6 nine minutes because he committed, if at all, a petty crime;
7 prior to that, a white Chicago Police Officer shot an unarmed
8 teenager of African descent 16 times for committing, if at all,
9 a petty offense; and

10 WHEREAS, The new currency in life is compassion; while
11 Illinois has grown and become a global power, the people of
12 Illinois cannot ignore the contributions of people of African
13 descent who were the catalyst to the economic growth of
14 Illinois; and

15 WHEREAS, The people of Illinois also can not ignore the
16 injustices that were and continue to be barriers to an equal
17 society; without question, there is a marked contrast between
18 the communities for people of African descent, other minority
19 communities, and the majority white community; and

20 WHEREAS, Illinois currently has 3,123 census tracts, 9,691
21 block groups, and 451,554 census blocks; and

1 WHEREAS, Census tracts generally have a population size
2 between 1,200 and 8,000 people, with an optimal size of 4,000
3 people; a block group is a cluster of blocks within a census
4 tract; and

5 WHEREAS, In the urban cores of most older cities, census
6 blocks are small because development preceded the introduction
7 of urban transportation technologies (such as interurban
8 railways, streetcars, and the automobile) and the
9 decentralization of industries and jobs; surrounding these
10 urban cores in the eastern and southern regions of the nation,
11 one typically finds dense, irregular street patterns and an
12 extensive system of connecting roads due principally to the
13 metes and bounds survey; and

14 WHEREAS, Today, the energy sector has the ability to create
15 no cost electricity from the earth that was worked by slaves in
16 Illinois for 300 years; there is currently legislation in
17 Illinois designed to exponentially increase renewable energy
18 generation, but the companies leading this effort are not
19 businesses led or owned by people of African descent; and

20 WHEREAS, For example, a microgrid of unknown cost is
21 currently underway for an community of African descent in
22 Chicago; it will be located in an area bounded from 33rd Street
23 to the North, 38th Street to the South, State Street to the

1 West, and South Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Drive to the East; and

2 WHEREAS, Phase I of the project will include 2.5 MW of load
3 and require reconfiguration of an existing feeder and
4 installation of battery storage and solar photovoltaics; it
5 will directly serve approximately 490 customers; and

6 WHEREAS, Phase II of the project will add approximately 570
7 customers and an additional 4.5 MW of load and 7 MW of
8 Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), enough to meet the peak
9 electricity demand of customers within the microgrid footprint
10 and maintain service when the microgrid is islanded from the
11 main grid; the completed project will serve approximately 1,060
12 residential, commercial, and small industrial customers; and

13 WHEREAS, This microgrid project contemplates that 1 MW of
14 energy will service 150 customers from a base load perspective;
15 if DERs are included in the calculation, the number of
16 customers would climb to 300; and

17 WHEREAS, Notably, the microgrid contemplates that
18 customers will be either homes, businesses, and/or small
19 industrial business; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2013, natural gas utilities Peoples Gas, Ameren
21 Illinois, and Nicor Gas began performing infrastructure

1 upgrades; for example, in Chicago, The Peoples Gas System
2 Modernization Program (SMP) is underway; and

3 WHEREAS, SMP is an accelerated, comprehensive,
4 multi-decade program to remove and replace 2,300 miles of 100
5 year-old, deteriorating cast or ductile iron pipe and upgrade
6 its blow pressure natural gas delivery system to a medium
7 pressure system; and

8 WHEREAS, The broadband sector has also engaged in enhanced
9 wireless and internet capabilities; Cook, Mason, and
10 Washington counties are targeted for significant technological
11 upgrades; and

12 WHEREAS, An integration of wired and wireless technology is
13 the current movement of society; soon networks will be
14 virtualized, and there will be enhanced experiences on mobile
15 devices; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2018, the median property value in Illinois was
17 \$203,400, and the homeownership rate was 66%; notably, the
18 median property value in Chicago was \$271,600, and the
19 homeownership rate was 45.7%; and

20 WHEREAS, Alternatively, the median property value in East
21 St. Louis was \$55,000, and the homeownership rate was 43.5%; at

1 the same time, the median property value in Cairo was \$30,500,
2 and the homeownership rate was 58.5%; and

3 WHEREAS, Finally, the median household incomes in East St.
4 Louis, Cairo, Chicago, and the State of Illinois as a whole are
5 \$20,659, \$24,549, \$57,238, and \$65,030, respectively; the
6 disparities between the communities of African descent and
7 other communities is apparent both visually and from the data;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Black homeownership rates are lower today than
10 they were 50 years ago when housing discrimination was
11 outlawed, and they are particularly bad in Chicago; and

12 WHEREAS, There has never been a successful affirmative
13 action housing policy in the State of Illinois for people of
14 African descent; such a plan is not a novel concept, as one was
15 proposed during the Civil War while the pro-slavery movement
16 began to suffer defeats; and

17 WHEREAS, General William T. Sherman entered Executive
18 Field Order #15 on January 16, 1865; his field order first
19 designated certain captured lands along the coastlines of South
20 Carolina, Georgia, and Florida (i.e. Charleston to
21 Jacksonville along the coastline and then 30 miles inward); and

1 WHEREAS, By General Sherman's order, subject to
2 ratification by President Lincoln, the specified coastal tract
3 of land was gifted to people of African descent for their own
4 agricultural and housing purposes following slavery; by the
5 order, each family of African descent was awarded "a plot of
6 not more than forty acres of tillable ground"; and

7 WHEREAS, Before it was ratified, President Abraham Lincoln
8 was assassinated; President Andrew Johnson, from Raleigh,
9 North Carolina, assumed the presidency; and

10 WHEREAS, President Johnson soon revoked General Sherman's
11 order hampering efforts by people of African descent to gain
12 economic independence after the Emancipation Proclamation;
13 President Johnson was later the first president to be impeached
14 for abuse of power and other high crimes and misdemeanors; and

15 WHEREAS, The regressive policies of the State of Illinois
16 relating to people of African descent are well documented and
17 date back 300 years; and

18 WHEREAS, Among other things, the regressive policies have
19 created a stark contrast in the housing available to people of
20 African descent and the housing available to people of
21 non-African descent; and

1 WHEREAS, There is an immediate need to drastically improve
2 the housing stock and the communities where people of African
3 descent reside; and

4 WHEREAS, There is a compelling need to drastically improve
5 the housing conditions of people of African descent residing in
6 the State of Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, The least restrictive means of drastically
8 improving the housing stock, communities, and conditions of
9 people of African descent is for the current Governor of the
10 State of Illinois to act; and

11 WHEREAS, The Governor must act to shape a narrowly tailored
12 approach to drastically improve the housing stock,
13 communities, and conditions of people of African descent
14 residing in the State of Illinois; and

15 WHEREAS, Immediate affirmative action by the Governor is
16 needed to counteract continuing conscious and unconscious
17 biases and prejudices against people of African descent in the
18 housing sector; and

19 WHEREAS, Such affirmative action in Illinois would not rise
20 to the level of discrimination against other minorities, as no
21 other minority group, apart from people of African descent, was

1 enslaved in the State of Illinois from as early as 1720; and

2 WHEREAS, Moreover, no other minority group was
3 discriminated against by being subjected to separate Slave
4 Codes in Illinois; to that end, no other minority group was
5 required in an apartheid-like fashion to produce a Certificate
6 of Freedom and proof of a behavior bond to travel in public in
7 Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, Furthermore, no other minority group in Illinois
9 was discriminated against by being subject to Jim Crow laws and
10 in many cases victims of Lynch Law, where they were hung, shot,
11 burned at the stake, castrated, beaten with clubs, or
12 dismembered; and

13 WHEREAS, Further still, no other minority group was
14 discriminated against by being subject to redlining and
15 restrictive covenants in Illinois' housing sector; and

16 WHEREAS, Finally, no other minority group, apart from
17 people of African descent, was discriminated against by being
18 subject to the greatest exposure to air toxicity, air
19 pollution, and other environmental health hazards; therefore,
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 it is in the best interest of the people of Illinois for the
3 Governor of the State of Illinois to immediately act to shape a
4 narrowly tailored approach to drastically improve the housing
5 stock, communities, and conditions of and for people of African
6 descent residing in the State of Illinois; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor of the State of
8 Illinois and the Illinois General Assembly to invoke the
9 principles of the Equitable Economic Land Use Plan of 2020 with
10 all deliberate speed; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That there is an immediate need for legislation,
12 emergency rules, and/or a gubernatorial executive order to (1)
13 authorize funding and matching grants to municipalities and
14 private investors for the construction of housing, commercial
15 real estate, microgrids, water, sewer, gas, broadband
16 technology, and clean energy generation and storage in
17 low-income communities, (2) authorize funding and matching
18 grants to municipalities and private investors for urban
19 beautification, greenspace, and community gardens in
20 low-income communities, (3) create heightened home equity
21 taxing districts, opportunity zones, empowerment zones,
22 enterprise zones, tax increment financing districts, and
23 Special Service Areas in low-income communities, and (4)
24 authorize funding and matching grants to municipalities and

1 private investors to construct community centers, grocery
2 stores, gymnasiums, and natatoriums in low-income communities;
3 and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That there is long term need for legislation,
5 emergency rules, and/or a gubernatorial executive order to (1)
6 fund existing and created housing programs for people of
7 African descent which shall include, but shall not be limited
8 to, professional services, property tax relief, and navigators
9 of and counselors for the land use process, (2) provide rent
10 subsidies for elderly and disabled people of African descent,
11 (3) provide specific property tax relief for the elderly and
12 disabled people of African descent, (4) provide property tax
13 relief for adults 21 years of age to 18 years of age for people
14 of African descent, (5) enable people of African descent to
15 make no or very low down payments to obtain mortgages; to
16 authorize funding in conjunction with the Creating American
17 Investment, Redevelopment, and Opportunity (CAIRO) Task Force
18 Act to address the housing crisis in Cairo, (6) underwrite and
19 secure mortgages for people of African descent who choose to
20 reside in a census tract designated by the Equitable Economic
21 Land Use Plan of 2020, (7) authorize the acquisition of real
22 estate designated by the Equitable Economic Land Use Plan of
23 2020 via eminent domain and quick take authority, (8) partner
24 regularly with the Chicago Department of Planning and
25 Development (DPD) to provide insight and information regarding

1 their efforts to invest in communities of persons of African
2 descent, and (9) appoint an Emergency Task Force to facilitate
3 the purposes of the Equitable Economic Land Use Plan of 2020;
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That there is long term need for legislation,
6 emergency rules, and/or a gubernatorial executive order to
7 reform the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure and the Mortgage
8 Act and to further fund existing and created housing programs
9 that will assist people of African descent in the facilitation
10 of the Equitable Economic Land Use Plan of 2020; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That the real property in census tracts
13 designated by the Equitable Economic Land Use Plan of 2020
14 should be valued as of July 1, 2020 and should be based upon
15 its fair cash market value at its highest and best use on July
16 1, 2020 for purposes of the Equitable Economic Land Use Plan of
17 2020; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That because Pierre Menard was a slaveowner in
19 the Metro East, the name of the Menard Correctional Center
20 should revert back to the Southern Illinois Penitentiary; and
21 be it further

22 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 delivered to Governor JB Pritzker, House Speaker Michael
2 Madigan, Senate President Don Harmon, House Minority Leader Jim
3 Durkin, Senate Minority Leader Bill Brady, U.S. Senator Dick
4 Durbin, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, Chicago Mayor Lori
5 Lightfoot, Cairo Mayor Tyrone Coleman, East St. Louis Mayor
6 Robert Eastern III, the Illinois Department of Commerce and
7 Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Department of Corrections,
8 and the Illinois Housing Development Authority.