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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Bronzeville is a center of African-American life and culture in Chicago and is historically known as the city's "Black Metropolis"; and

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WHEREAS, Bronzeville is home to a diverse business community, historic landmarks, and lively events, including the annual Bud Billiken Parade that draws more than one million spectators each August; and

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WHEREAS, Bronzeville is known for its rich history and flourishing modern-day renaissance; its cultural contributions are vast, and it brought the world Pulitzer Prize-winner Gwendolyn Brooks, civil rights activist Ida B. Wells, legendary musician Louis Armstrong, founder and publisher of what was the country's most prominent African-American newspaper, the Chicago Defender, and the creator of the Bud Billiken Parade Robert Abbott, and more; and

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WHEREAS, Bronzeville's remaining historic remnants attract many to the area; notable surviving structures are the old Chicago Defender Building, the Overton Hygienic Building, the Supreme Life Building, and the Eighth Regiment Armory; and

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WHEREAS, An African-American Cultural Center is a

1 gathering place for the safe, creative, and critical  
2 exploration and celebration of black life, culture, and  
3 history; therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
5 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we urge the General Assembly to create an African American  
7 Cultural Center in the Bronzeville neighborhood in Chicago.