



HR0430

LRB102 19706 ECR 28479 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Village of Hodgkins on its 125-year anniversary and to congratulate Village President Noel Cummings for being the longest serving village president/mayor in the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, After several name changes, the Village of Hodgkins was incorporated in 1896 and named after the president of the Kimball and Cobb Stone Company, Jefferson Hodgkins; Modesto Lenzi became the village's first president that same year; and

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WHEREAS, The first business to locate in Hodgkins was the Kimball and Cobb Stone Company on a piece of property sold by William and Jane Muxworthy in 1883; the business was sold to Vulcan Materials in 1897; and

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WHEREAS, In the mid 1960s, the Santa Fe Railroad made available 275 acres of open land for future development in Hodgkins; among the many businesses located in the Santa Fe Improvement Park are the Continental Baking Company, Certified Grocers of Illinois, Sealed Air Corporation, and Liberty Publishing; and

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1           WHEREAS, In 1988, negotiations began with the United  
2 Parcel Service (UPS) that resulted in the annexation of  
3 approximately 250 acres into Hodgkins directly to its west;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, In 1989, UPS purchased the real estate that was  
6 formerly the abandoned Fisher Body division of General Motors;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, By the time the UPS Consolidation Hub became  
9 operational, \$279,110,000 had been invested into Hodgkins, and  
10 approximately 2,100 jobs were brought to the area during its  
11 first year of operation; and

12           WHEREAS, The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway  
13 Company constructed a new intermodal facility to serve the UPS  
14 Consolidation Hub; and

15           WHEREAS, In 1985, Hodgkins joined with the Village of  
16 McCook to create the McCook-Hodgkins Enterprise Zone, and the  
17 village created a Tax Increment Finance District in 1986; both  
18 of these tools offered better incentives to new businesses  
19 desiring to locate in the area; and

20           WHEREAS, Businesses located inside the Enterprise Zone  
21 include the UPS Consolidation Hub, Cummins Northern Illinois,

1 J. Sterling, and Petro-Vend; and

2 WHEREAS, Restaurants in the Enterprise Zone include Lone  
3 Star Steak House, Applebee's, SubWay, and Casciani's Pizza; in  
4 2001, a CITGO Mini-Mart Gas Station opened at the corner of  
5 East Avenue and Joliet Road; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1992, Celozzi-Ettleson Cadillac began selling  
7 upscale automobiles to the general public; in the fall of  
8 1995, Hodgkins welcomed Continental Chevrolet, which greatly  
9 increased sales tax revenues, created more jobs, and increased  
10 the equalized assessed valuation of the Redevelopment Project  
11 Area in the village; and

12 WHEREAS, In the spring of 1996, the Republic Bank opened  
13 its new building in Hodgkins; and

14 WHEREAS, The Quarry Shopping Center was constructed on the  
15 site formerly occupied by several motor freight companies; the  
16 Village of Hodgkins assisted in the construction of the Quarry  
17 Shopping Center by selling bonds; and

18 WHEREAS, The construction of the Quarry Shopping Center  
19 resulted in 600 new jobs, and the assessed valuation of the  
20 property increased from \$10,813,145 to almost \$40 million  
21 dollars; and

1           WHEREAS, Major anchor stores at the Quarry Shopping Center  
2 include Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Kohl's, Office Max, Fashion Bug,  
3 Target, Pep Boys, Lane Bryant, Ulta 3, and many more, as well  
4 as The Quarry Cinema, a 14 screen movie theater; and

5           WHEREAS, President Noel Cummings has served as the village  
6 president of Hodgkins since 1979; he is the longest serving  
7 mayor/village president in Illinois; and

8           WHEREAS, President Noel Cummings and his wife Nelda have  
9 resided in Hodgkins for the past thirty-five years; he  
10 attended public grade school and high school in Burnsville,  
11 Mississippi and matriculated at North Eastern Mississippi  
12 Junior College; he served in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, President Noel Cummings and his wife have two  
15 children; their son Daniel, a retired Lieutenant Colonel who  
16 served in the U.S. Army, and his wife Jean reside in San  
17 Antonio, Texas with their two sons, Brandon and Richard; the  
18 Cummings' daughter Sherry and her husband Daniel Klotz reside  
19 in Hodgkins and have one son, Joseph, who is attending Murray  
20 State College in Kentucky; and

21           WHEREAS, President Noel Cummings was employed as a

1 supervisor at the International Harvester Company for 28  
2 years; and

3 WHEREAS, President Noel Cummings served as a village  
4 trustee from 1975 to 1979 before serving as village president;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, President Noel Cummings applied for and received  
7 grants to construct an on-off ramp at 1-294 and 75th Street,  
8 which was done to alleviate truck traffic through Hodgkins; he  
9 also connected Santa Fe Drive with 75th Street to allow easy  
10 access to 1- 294 for village residents; and

11 WHEREAS, Under President Noel Cummings' leadership,  
12 renovation of the historic Old Fire Station has been completed  
13 and upgrades to the Public Works Department continue;  
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
16 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we congratulate the Village of Hodgkins on its 125 year  
18 anniversary and Village President Noel Cummings for being the  
19 longest serving village president/mayor in the State of  
20 Illinois; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to the Hodgkins Village Board of Trustees and  
2 President Noel Cummings as a symbol of our esteem and respect.