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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Founded in 1985, The Austin Voice has the largest  
3 circulation, is the most widely read weekly community  
4 newspaper, and is the largest African-American owned  
5 publication serving Chicago's largest neighborhood; and

6 WHEREAS, The philosophy of the newspaper is to serve as an  
7 open forum for community dialogue and free exchange of ideas;  
8 it built its reputation as an advocate for readers against drug  
9 dealers and street gangs; and

10 WHEREAS, The newspaper served as a conduit to law  
11 enforcement agencies for information from Chicago residents  
12 regarding criminal activity; these agencies praise the  
13 newspaper for its vital assistance in facilitating the arrests  
14 of dangerous felons and credit the paper with breaking a major  
15 international narcotics conspiracy centered on Chicago's West  
16 Side; and

17 WHEREAS, The Austin Voice is the only newspaper to receive  
18 the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major For  
19 Justice Award from the Southern Christian Leadership  
20 Conference; it is also recipient of the highest honor from the  
21 League of Black Women and was also selected by the Society of  
22 Professional Journalists to receive the Ethics in Journalism

1 Award from the Headline Club of Chicago; and

2 WHEREAS, The Austin Voice and the Chicago Civic Media  
3 Project implemented a unique Citizen/Police/Media partnership  
4 called the West Side Drug Area Shut-Down Project for  
5 successfully fighting crime; the newspaper and Chicago Civic  
6 Media Project teamed up again to work with students at Marshall  
7 High School in publishing a newspaper that resulted in more  
8 freshman applications to the school than for any other high  
9 school on the West Side; and

10 WHEREAS, In January of 2004, The Austin Voice launched a  
11 sister publication, The Garfield-Lawndale Voice; The  
12 Garfield-Lawndale Voice has been telling West Side stories for  
13 5 years; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
15 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
16 congratulate the staff of both The Austin Voice and The  
17 Garfield-Lawndale Voice for their anniversary year of  
18 publication and wish them continued success in the future; and  
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
21 presented to the staff of The Austin Voice and The  
22 Garfield-Lawndale Voice as symbols of our respect and esteem.