



1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, On Monday, December 6, 2004, the Chicago Fire Department dispatched more than one-third of its firefighting force to the LaSalle National Bank, a 45-story high-rise building located at 135 South LaSalle Street, to fight a fierce, large-scale fire which had broken out on the building's 29th floor; and

8

WHEREAS, The fire burned for five and a half hours, and despite the intensity of the blaze, no fatalities occurred; 39 people, including 24 firefighters, were hospitalized with injuries that were not life threatening; and

12

WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Fire Commissioner Cortez Trotter, the Chicago Fire Department's recently revised "High-Rise Incident Command Policy" places a premium on search and evacuation in high-rise fires; 50 to 75 firefighters are assigned to rapid ascent teams whose job in a high-rise fire is to locate and evacuate building occupants; these teams conducted three sweeps of the LaSalle National Bank building looking for trapped persons before firefighters expanded their firefighting efforts to include both of the building's stairwells and turned their attention exclusively to fighting the fire; and

23

WHEREAS, A critical feature of the Chicago Fire Department's newly-revised "High-Rise Incident Command Policy" is its emphasis on improved communications between building occupants, 911 dispatchers, and firefighters, and on better coordination between fire department personnel and building management; when put to the test, the Chicago Fire Department's innovative new plan for fighting high-rise fires averted what could have been a deadly disaster on December 6, 2004; and

31

WHEREAS, Several firefighters who responded to the call

1 were treated for injuries, including Assistant Deputy Fire
2 Commissioner Thomas Donnellan, Battalion Chief James Carroll,
3 Captain John Collins, Firefighter James Gorman, Captain James
4 Clarke, Captain Arthur Lewis, Lieutenant Robert Walters,
5 Lieutenant Ronald Michi, Firefighter Frank Perez, Firefighter
6 Martinez Chapman, Firefighter Patrick McCauley, Firefighter
7 Anthony Consola, Firefighter William Hopkins, Firefighter
8 Anthony Tobar, Firefighter/EMT Michael McLaughlin, Firefighter
9 Larry Paller, Firefighter Tim Bailey, Firefighter Mark Jadwin,
10 Firefighter Steve Magana, Firefighter Gerald Barry,
11 Firefighter William Vaci, Candidate Firefighter James Gorman,
12 Candidate Firefighter Anthony Serritella, and Candidate
13 Firefighter Victor Lecodet; and

14 WHEREAS, Fire Commissioner Cortez Trotter and the members
15 of the Chicago Fire Department that worked to rescue the
16 workers in the LaSalle National Bank building are to be
17 commended for their efforts; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we thank Fire Commissioner Cortez Trotter and the many
21 firefighters who responded to the call on December 6, 2004, for
22 their efforts in saving lives and fighting the LaSalle National
23 Bank building fire; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
25 presented to the Chicago Fire Department as an expression of
26 our respect and esteem.