



HR0720

LRB104 21114 ECR 35342 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Michael Edwards on the  
4 occasion of his retirement as president and CEO of the Chicago  
5 Loop Alliance (CLA) in March 2026; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the course of his distinguished 13-year  
7 tenure, Michael Edwards has been a visionary leader and a  
8 tireless advocate for the Chicago Loop, transforming it from a  
9 traditional central business district into a vibrant,  
10 inclusive, and economically resilient neighborhood; and

11 WHEREAS, Under Michael Edwards' leadership, the Loop has  
12 evolved into a 24-hour destination with a residential  
13 population that has grown to 45,000 people, proving that the  
14 heart of Chicago is no longer just a nine-to-five place to  
15 work, but a place to live, shop, and thrive; and

16 WHEREAS, Michael Edwards was instrumental in expanding  
17 Chicago's Special Service Area (SSA) #1-2015, ensuring the  
18 delivery of essential clean, safe, and beautification services  
19 to maintain the Loop's status as a world-class destination;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Michael Edwards commitment to placemaking led to

1 the creation of award-winning, iconic programming, including  
2 ACTIVATE and Sundays on State, which successfully transformed  
3 underutilized public spaces into lively cultural hubs,  
4 attracting millions of visitors while supporting local artists  
5 and small businesses; and

6 WHEREAS, During the unprecedented challenges of the  
7 COVID-19 pandemic, Michael Edwards spearheaded recovery and  
8 reactivation efforts, collaborating with city partners and  
9 property owners to ensure the Loop emerged stronger and more  
10 connected; and

11 WHEREAS, Michael Edwards demonstrated a profound  
12 commitment to equity by integrating effective Diversity,  
13 Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) practices into the CLA's strategic  
14 plan and operational core; and

15 WHEREAS, Michael Edwards' influence extended globally  
16 through the establishment of the Global Business District  
17 Innovation Club, fostering partnerships with 15 leading  
18 downtowns across the world, including Paris, France, Tokyo,  
19 Japan, Casablanca, Morocco, and San Francisco, California; and

20 WHEREAS, Michael Edwards' departure marks the end of an  
21 era of growth and innovation for downtown Chicago, leaving  
22 behind a legacy of collaboration and economic vitality;

1 therefore, be it

2       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
3 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 we congratulate Michael Edwards on his retirement as president  
5 and CEO of the Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA), thank him for his  
6 13 years of dedicated service to the City of Chicago and the  
7 State of Illinois, and wish him the very best in all his future  
8 endeavors; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to Michael Edwards as a token of our respect and  
11 esteem.