



HR0852

LRB104 21502 RMO 36813 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Chief of Police for the
4 City of Zion and Deputy City Administrator Eric Barden on
5 being sworn in as the 2026-2027 president of the Illinois
6 Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP); and

7 WHEREAS, The ILACP has served as the voice of professional
8 law enforcement in Illinois since 1941, representing more than
9 1,400 members across 450 agencies, and is dedicated to
10 promoting professionalism, innovation, and community impact;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Chief Barden is a lifelong resident of Zion,
13 having graduated from Zion Central Junior High and Zion-Benton
14 Township High School, and has spent over two decades serving
15 the community he calls home; and

16 WHEREAS, Chief Barden joined the Zion Police Department in
17 2002 as a patrol officer and rose through the ranks as a
18 detective, sergeant, and lieutenant before being appointed
19 chief of police by Mayor William McKinney in 2021; and

20 WHEREAS, Chief Barden has served in a variety of roles
21 throughout his distinguished career, including in the bike

1 unit and motorcycle unit and as a drug and gang detective,
2 while further honing his leadership skills as a graduate of
3 Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Chief Barden has extended his leadership beyond
6 the City of Zion, serving on the board of directors for the
7 Northeast Multi-Regional Training (NEMRT) unit, the Lake
8 County Chiefs of Police Association, and the Illinois
9 Association of Chiefs of Police; and

10 WHEREAS, Chief Barden further expanded his service to his
11 municipality by accepting the appointment of deputy city
12 administrator of Zion in 2025, demonstrating a profound
13 commitment to the administrative excellence of his community;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, During Chief Barden's tenure as president, the
16 ILACP will focus on the core values of integrity,
17 accountability, and community partnership while leading the
18 charge in combating crime through technology and fostering
19 meaningful relationships between law enforcement and the
20 public; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
22 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate Chief Eric Barden on his selection as the
2 2026-2027 president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of
3 Police, commend him for his lifelong dedication to the City of
4 Zion and the State of Illinois, and wish him continued success
5 in his leadership of the State's professional law enforcement
6 community; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Chief Barden as an expression of our esteem and
9 respect.