



HR0939

LRB104 22108 RMO 38282 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are proud to congratulate Laura Rodriguez,
4 Gregory Pratt, and editor Erika Slife on receiving the 2026
5 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting for their courageous and
6 impactful coverage of Operation Midway Blitz; and

7 WHEREAS, Through fearless investigative journalism and
8 powerful storytelling published by the Chicago Tribune, Laura
9 Rodriguez, Gregory Pratt, editor Erika Slife, and Tribune
10 staff documented the human impact of militarized immigration
11 enforcement operations that traumatized immigrant families and
12 communities across the Chicagoland area; and

13 WHEREAS, The Chicago Tribune's Operation Midway Blitz
14 reporting exposed the fear, uncertainty, and harm experienced
15 by working families while elevating the voices of residents,
16 advocates, students, workers, and local communities who came
17 together in resistance and solidarity; and

18 WHEREAS, The Pulitzer Prize Board recognized the Chicago
19 Tribune's reporting "for its powerful coverage of the Trump
20 administration's militarized immigration sweep of the city
21 that described in vivid, muscular prose how the siege-like
22 incursion of ICE agents unified Chicagoans in resistance"; and

1 WHEREAS, At a time when immigrant communities have too
2 often been targeted, silenced, or dehumanized, the work of
3 Laura Rodriguez, Gregory Pratt, and editor Erika Slife
4 demonstrated the essential role journalism plays in protecting
5 democracy, demanding accountability, and ensuring that the
6 stories of impacted communities are not ignored; and

7 WHEREAS, The Chicago Tribune's coverage of Operation
8 Midway Blitz helped bring national attention to the realities
9 facing Latino and immigrant communities in Illinois and serves
10 as an important historical record of a painful chapter that
11 deeply affected families throughout the region; and

12 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois recognizes that a free and
13 courageous press is fundamental to democracy and public
14 accountability, especially when reporting on abuses of power
15 and the lived experiences of vulnerable communities;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we congratulate Laura Rodriguez, Gregory Pratt, and editor
20 Erika Slife on receiving the 2026 Pulitzer Prize for Local
21 Reporting, and we thank them for their commitment to truth,
22 justice, accountability, and the people of Illinois; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 presented to Laura Rodriguez, Gregory Pratt, and Erika Slife
4 as a symbol of our respect and appreciation.