



HR0939 Enrolled

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION 939

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, Adriana Perez, Kate Perez, Richie
10 Requena, editor Erika Slife, and Tribune staff documented
11 militarized immigration enforcement operations that
12 traumatized immigrant families and communities across the
13 Chicagoland area; and

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

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

1 incursion of ICE agents unified Chicagoans in resistance"; and

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

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

13 WHEREAS, A free and courageous press is fundamental to
14 democracy and public accountability, especially when reporting
15 on abuses of power and the lived experiences of vulnerable
16 communities; 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.