



SR0231

LRB104 13146 ECR 25274 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate Police Chief Schenita Stewart of the Evanston
4 Police Department on being selected as the 2025 Police Chief
5 of the Year by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police
6 (ILACP); and

7 WHEREAS, Chief Stewart, along with her twin sister,
8 Commander Schonella Stewart of the Oak Park Police Department,
9 was raised in the City of Evanston's 5th Ward, where their
10 lives revolved around their home at 1924 Wesley Avenue and
11 other nearby neighborhood locations, including the Fleetwood
12 Jourdain Center, Family Focus, and Mt. Zion Baptist Church;
13 they attended Gale School on Howard Street and later graduated
14 from Evanston Township High School; and

15 WHEREAS, Chief Stewart received a bachelor's degree in
16 criminology from Illinois State University and a master's
17 degree in criminal justice from Chicago State University; and

18 WHEREAS, Chief Stewart began her 25-year career in law
19 enforcement as a patrol officer of the Lincolnwood Police
20 Department at the suggestion of her grandfather, William
21 Stewart, in 1999; she was eventually appointed deputy chief, a
22 position she held until 2021; during her more than 21-year

1 tenure, she was the department's only Black police officer;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Chief Stewart proceeded to serve as deputy chief
4 of the East Dundee Police Department; and

5 WHEREAS, Chief Stewart was sworn in as chief of police of
6 the Evanston Police Department in October 2022, making history
7 in the process by becoming the department's first Black female
8 police chief; and

9 WHEREAS, Chief Stewart has not only made the Evanston
10 Police Department better, but she has also made the entire
11 Evanston community and the 13th District better due to her
12 guidance, dedication, and many talents; and

13 WHEREAS, Chief Stewart's commitment to officer well-being,
14 transparency, and community engagement has set a new standard
15 in policing, and her transformative, inspiring, and visionary
16 leadership has strengthened collaboration, trust, and
17 excellence among officers and the community; and

18 WHEREAS, Chief Stewart has received a number of accolades
19 since accepting the role of police chief, including being
20 named Instructor of the Year by the College of DuPage and the
21 Suburban Law Enforcement Academy; and

1 WHEREAS, Chief Stewart is the first woman to receive the
2 ILACP Police Chief of the Year award and the first permanent
3 female police chief to lead the Evanston Police Department;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Police
7 Chief Schenita Stewart of the Evanston Police Department on
8 being named the 2025 Police Chief of the Year by the Illinois
9 Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP), and we thank her for
10 her service to the residents of Evanston and Cook County; and
11 be it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 presented to Chief Stewart, the Evanston Police Department,
14 and the City of Evanston as a symbol of our esteem and respect.