



HR0778

LRB101 20838 ECR 70612 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Yingying Zhang arrived at the University of
3 Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in April of 2017 to contribute
4 to research in the Department of Natural Resources and
5 Environmental Sciences; and

6 WHEREAS, Yingying Zhang was an environmental engineering
7 scholar from Nanping, a small city in the Fujian province in
8 southeast China, where her parents and boyfriend lived; and

9 WHEREAS, In June of 2017, Yingying Zhang went missing after
10 getting into a black SUV near the UIUC campus; and

11 WHEREAS, After an extensive investigation and search
12 efforts by local, state, and federal authorities, Yingying
13 Zhang was declared dead in the summer of 2017; and

14 WHEREAS, The loss of Zhang's life devastated the
15 Champaign-Urbana community, the academic community, and the
16 global community; UIUC honored Zhang's life with a number of
17 vigils and rallies; and

18 WHEREAS, During the investigation, University of Illinois
19 Police Department (UIPD) telecommunicator Kenny Costa examined
20 a large amount of security video in order to trace Yingying

1 Zhang's movements before she disappeared and found video
2 footage of her entering a black SUV; and

3 WHEREAS, The discovery of this footage was a turning point
4 in the case; Kenny Costa's work led to other essential
5 discoveries that helped to narrow the search for Yingying
6 Zhang's murderer down to one man who is now being held
7 accountable for his heinous crime; and

8 WHEREAS, UIPD telecommunicators have many
9 responsibilities, including being the first voice you hear on
10 the phone, the first face who greets you at the front desk, and
11 being the person who keeps you calm in times of crisis; with
12 his experience in loss prevention and customer service, Kenny
13 Costa is a perfect fit for the job; and

14 WHEREAS, Kenny Costa was the 2015 recipient of UIPD's
15 Civilian Employee of the Year Award; his expertise and
16 attention to detail created a turning point in the Yingying
17 Zhang investigation; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 without Kenny Costa's work to trace Yingying Zhang throughout
21 the UIUC campus the day she disappeared, it is likely this case
22 could have gone unsolved; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That due to Kenny Costa's work, Yingying Zhang's
2 family at least has the comfort of knowing who was responsible
3 for her devastating murder, and we send our deepest sympathies
4 and condolences to the Zhang family; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we commend Kenny Costa for his exemplary
6 work in the murder case of Yingying Zhang and for his service
7 to Champaign County and the entire state of Illinois.