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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is a state rich in culture
3 and ethnic diversity and is home to people of every national
4 origin, including a significant number of Ghanaians; and

5 WHEREAS, The City of Accra is a prominent African city,
6 rich in tradition, the homeland of many Illinois residents,
7 the capital of Ghana, and the first African nation to gain
8 independence from colonial rule; and

9 WHEREAS, The City of Accra hosted the All African Peoples
10 Conference in 1958, which proclaimed that colonialism, racism,
11 and imperialism must cease and Africa should be free; it also
12 hosted the 1964 Organization of African Unity Conference,
13 which debated the necessity of a Continental Union Government
14 for the whole continent of Africa; and

15 WHEREAS, The City of Chicago and the City of Accra were
16 officially acknowledged by the Chicago City Council as Sister
17 Cities on June 28, 1989; and

18 WHEREAS, It is fitting that the rich relationship between
19 the City of Chicago and the City of Accra be expanded to the
20 entire State of Illinois in order to enhance the exchange of
21 ideas and promote further goodwill, harmony, commerce, and

1 mutual development; and

2 WHEREAS, In order to further explore the mutual benefits
3 to the State of Illinois, the Illinois General Assembly and
4 members of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus seek to
5 engage with the City of Accra, Ghana for the reciprocal
6 benefit of strengthening relations and exchanges involving the
7 identification of opportunities for economic development,
8 education policy, judicial policy, environmental policy, and
9 the improvement of health and human services for African
10 Americans and African citizens in the country of Ghana;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
14 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we seek to initiate a
15 delegation from among the members of the Illinois General
16 Assembly and of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus to visit
17 the City of Accra, Ghana for the purpose of acknowledging and
18 expanding the mutually beneficial relationship between the
19 State of Illinois and Ghana; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the purpose of this delegation would be to
21 exchange knowledge, expertise, and good relations with the
22 City of Accra's Social Welfare & Community Development
23 Department, Metro Public Health Department, Department of

1 Education, Legal Department, Food & Agriculture Department,
2 Urban Roads Department, and Waste Management Department; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois and the City of
5 Accra, on the basis of friendly cooperation, equality, and
6 mutual benefit, are encouraged to promote and broaden economic
7 cooperation and trade relations between the two bodies and
8 carry out exchanges in fields such as science and technology,
9 culture and education, sports and health, and others to
10 promote their prosperity and contribute towards further
11 developing friendly relations between the people of the two
12 countries; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we hereby declare, on behalf of the
14 citizens of Illinois, our esteem and friendship to the City of
15 Accra, Ghana and its citizens and express a request for an
16 invitation from the parliament of Ghana for an official visit,
17 December 10-20, 2022; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois promises its
19 continued goodwill and cooperation with Accra; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 delivered to the Honorable Elizabeth Sackey, Mayor of Accra,

1 Ghana, for presentation to the governing body of Accra as a
2 token of our esteem and a request for a official invitation
3 from the parliament of Ghana for a visit from a delegation of
4 members from the Illinois General Assembly and from the
5 Illinois Legislative Black Caucus.