



HR0222

LRB102 18130 ECR 25410 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Chief Derek Bergsten has served the Rockford community for the last 27 years as a member of the Rockford Fire Department and since 2008 as the fire chief; and

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WHEREAS, Chief Bergsten has supervised and promoted the development and advancement of 320 uniformed firefighters and ancillary service personnel who provide firefighting, emergency medical service, hazardous materials response, and technical rescue; and

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WHEREAS, Chief Bergsten was recognized as the 2020 Fire Chief of the Year by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association; and

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WHEREAS, Chief Bergsten has overseen the implementation and expansion of innovative programs, including a mobile integrated health program, a certified fire vehicle repair shop operated by the fire department, a program that allows Rockford fire personnel to transport patients experiencing a mental health issue to a specialized facility instead of an emergency room, and a program providing Naloxone kits and training to the families of those who have overdosed; and

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WHEREAS, Chief Bergsten made significant contributions to his field by serving on the Illinois Statewide 9-1-1 Advisory

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1 Board, the Rockford Regional Health Council Board of
2 Directors, the National Fire Protection Association's
3 Committee on Public Emergency Service Communication, and the
4 Technical Expert Panel for the Veterans Health Administration
5 for Same-Day Access Measurement Services for Mental Health,
6 among many others; and

7 WHEREAS, Chief Bergsten has been a dedicated member of the
8 community and has served in many organizations, including the
9 Salvation Army, the Rosecrance Florian Program for uniformed
10 service personnel, Transform Rockford, Alignment Rockford, and
11 the Winnebago County Opioid Response Team, where he served as
12 co-chair; and

13 WHEREAS, On May 7, 2021, Chief Bergsten will end his
14 tenure as fire chief for the Rockford Fire Department; his
15 tenure is marked by his incredible leadership, which has left
16 a permanent positive mark on the Rockford community;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we commend Chief Derek Bergsten on his many years of exemplary
21 service and dedication to the Rockford community and wish him
22 happiness and great success in his future endeavors; and be it
23 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Chief Bergsten as a symbol of our esteem and
3 respect.