



HR0201

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Ryan Risinger on the
4 occasion of his retirement from the Buffalo Grove Park
5 District on May 26, 2023; and

6 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger was first employed by the Buffalo
7 Grove Park District as an intern in May of 1992 after earning
8 his bachelor's degree in parks and recreation from Illinois
9 State University; he was hired full-time as recreation
10 supervisor in November of that same year; he was then promoted
11 to division manager in 1996, superintendent of recreation in
12 2001, director of recreation and facilities in 2010, and
13 deputy director in 2013; he was named executive director on
14 November 29, 2014; and

15 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger continued his education while
16 working full-time for the Buffalo Grove Park District; he
17 attended Indiana University's Executive Development Program,
18 North Carolina State's School of Sports Management at Oglebay,
19 and Disney Institute's Keys to Success and Customer Loyalty
20 Programs; he is a certified Park and Recreation Executive and
21 earned his master's degree in public administration from
22 Villanova in 2015; and

1 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger became active in the Illinois Parks
2 and Recreation Association (IPRA) through the recreation
3 section and eventually the administration and finance section;
4 he served on the Mentoring Committee and was recognized by the
5 IPRA for his efforts and contributions as Mentoring Committee
6 Chairman in 2003 and 2004; he has spoken on various
7 educational topics, including The Ups & Downs of Skate Parks
8 and It Takes a Village: Controlling the Crisis, which focused
9 on the importance of community crisis training with local law
10 enforcement; he also co-authored a partnership article titled
11 A Wireless Solution that was featured in the Illinois Park and
12 Recreation magazine; and

13 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger's advocacy efforts for parks and
14 recreation on a national level led the Buffalo Grove Park
15 District to be named National Recreation and Park
16 Association's Park Champion of the Year in 2015; and

17 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger, as executive director, was
18 actively involved in the Illinois Association of Park
19 Districts (IAPD) and IPRA's Distinguished Accreditation
20 program committee; he served as co-chair in 2017 and chair in
21 2018; he remained on the committee in 2019 and 2020 and was
22 co-chair in 2022; the Buffalo Grove Park District was
23 accredited five times over his 30-year career; and

1 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger was an advocate for professional
2 development and ensured that his district's staff had the
3 opportunity to attend state conferences as well as
4 national/regional professional development programs; he has
5 been a respected and dedicated leader who promoted a positive
6 work culture where people not only wanted to work but wanted to
7 stay throughout their career; and

8 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger fostered positive relationships
9 with governmental agencies, including the Village of Buffalo
10 Grove, school districts, the Indian Trails Public Library
11 District, sports affiliate groups, and sponsors; he was an
12 active member of the Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove, where he
13 served as president in 2017-18; he served on the Northwest
14 Special Recreation Association Board of Directors from 2015 to
15 2022, including as chairman in 2020; he was a member of the
16 Special Leisure Services Foundation Board of Trustees in 2021
17 and 2022 and was a long-standing liaison to the Buffalo Grove
18 Chamber of Commerce; and

19 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger oversaw the renovation of the
20 Buffalo Grove Park District's Community Arts Center; partially
21 funded with a PARC grant, the 41,000 SF LEED-certified
22 facility was developed with the arts in mind; it has a
23 state-of-the-art, 360 tiered-seat theater with an ADA
24 accessible sound booth, concessions, box office, multipurpose

1 areas, and an art gallery; the center offers over a 100
2 different classes with more than 852 performers yearly, as
3 well performing arts camps that serve more than 400 campers;
4 it operates as a rental hub year-round for local groups
5 including churches, synagogues, arangetrams, quinceaneras,
6 community outreach groups, non-profits, and other local
7 government agencies; the district was honored to receive the
8 distinction of Outstanding Facility Award: Division II for
9 this facility by the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association
10 in January of 2020; and

11 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger's leadership enabled the district
12 to complete many park developments, including the renovation
13 of the district's park gem, Willow Stream Park, which received
14 upgraded pathways, additional trails, a new playground, pool
15 upgrades and slide, permeable paving, and a pavilion; that
16 project was followed by a large renovation of Reiner Park
17 (formerly Green Lake Park) with the addition of a cricket
18 pitch, outdoor exercise equipment, a fishing pier, and a
19 butterfly garden; he also oversaw the development of the
20 Educational Gardens and Classroom at Mike Rylko Community
21 Park, which encourages the community to be curious about the
22 natural world with a focus on food sustainability and native
23 plants; and

24 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger also oversaw the Alcott Center

1 pre-school wing renovation, the construction of the Golf Dome,
2 and the proposed Prairie Grove and Parkchester Park
3 renovations, as well as the Spray 'N Play expansion and
4 Amphitheater construction at Mike Rylko Community Park; and

5 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger's legacy of service will leave a
6 lasting impact on the State of Illinois parks and recreation
7 field and on the community of Buffalo Grove; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we congratulate Ryan Risinger on his retirement from the
11 Buffalo Grove Park District, and we wish him well in all his
12 future endeavors; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Ryan Risinger as a symbol of our respect and
15 esteem.