



HR0482

LRB103 35009 ECR 64932 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Aurora City Council Alderperson Scheketa Hart-Burns of Ward 7, who passed away on June 19, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Ald. Hart-Burns was a graduate of Edison College; and

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WHEREAS, Ald. Hart-Burns became the first African American elected to the Aurora City Council in 1991, and she was later the first-ever African American to serve as mayor pro tempore, holding the position from 2016 to 2017; she served as chairperson of the Public Health, Safety, and Transportation Committee, a member of the Finance Committee, and an alternate for the Buildings, Grounds & Infrastructure Committee; and

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WHEREAS, For Ward 7 residents, Ald. Hart-Burns launched dozens of organizations and initiatives for Ward 7 residents, including the 7th Ward Committee, the Eastwood Tenant Council, the Forest Ridge Tenant Council, the Inner Circle Neighbor Group, the Maple Terrace Tenant Council, the Taking Back Our Community organization, and community gardens in and annual holiday programs for Forest Ridge and Eastwood; and

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1 WHEREAS, For the City of Aurora, Ald. Hart-Burns
2 established the annual citywide Black history program, the
3 annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon celebration, and
4 the annual Black and Latino American history programs at Metea
5 High School and Cowherd Middle School; she also designated
6 commemorative street signs for prominent African American
7 residents, and she hosted annual holiday musicals for the
8 Interfaith Food Pantry and the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry and
9 holiday dinners for senior citizens and disabled persons; and

10 WHEREAS, Ald. Hart-Burns supported and created many youth
11 initiatives, including founding the Back to School Bash at Dr.
12 Martin Luther King Jr. Park to bring together more than 5,000
13 youth and families to start the new school year and the Project
14 Unity Back to School Fair to provide back-to-school supplies,
15 free services, and information to thousands of families; she
16 co-founded the annual Coats-for-Kids Drive to provide winter
17 clothing to thousands of students in need and the City of
18 Aurora's STEAM Academy to provide enrichment activities to
19 more than 700 local youth in the areas of science, technology,
20 engineering, art, and math; she was a founding advisor and
21 mother emeritus of the mentoring group Boys II Men, Inc., and
22 she also served as a mentor to Aurora University students
23 seeking advanced degrees in the social work program; and

24 WHEREAS, Ald. Hart-Burns belonged to numerous

1 organizations, including serving as chairperson of the Circle
2 of Wise Women for the Kane County Health Department,
3 chairperson of the Weed and Seed Program with the Kane County
4 State's Attorney's Office, a 33-year board member and advisor
5 of the Quad County Urban League, a founding advisor for the
6 Aurora African American Heritage Advisory Board, a member of
7 the League of United Latin American Citizens, and a board
8 member of the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry and Childcare
9 Center; and

10 WHEREAS, Ald. Hart-Burns was the namesake of the Scheketa
11 Hart-Burns Phenomenal Woman Achievement Award, an honor
12 presented annually to more than 100 young women in Aurora by
13 Boys II Men, Inc.; and

14 WHEREAS, Ald. Hart-Burns was an evangelist missionary at
15 Greater Mt. Olive Church of God in Christ (COGIC); and

16 WHEREAS, Ald. Hart-Burns will be remembered as a public
17 servant who blazed an impactful, unforgettable, and undeniable
18 trail of excellence in service and advocacy for more than 30
19 years; and

20 WHEREAS, Ald. Hart-Burns was preceded in death by her
21 children, Malik Hart and Ahmad Hart; and

1 WHEREAS, Ald. Hart-Burns is survived by her husband,
2 William F. Burns, and her children, Kehinde Hart, Hakim Hart,
3 Amina Hart, Michael Burns, Vernon Burns, and Arvin Burns;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we mourn the passing of Aurora City Council Alderperson
8 Scheketa Hart-Burns and extend our sincere condolences to her
9 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Ald. Hart-Burns as an expression of
13 our deepest sympathy.