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LRB103 40543 LAW 73061 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Jacqueline "Jackie"
4 Jackson on the occasion of being named the 2024 Illinois Small
5 Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business
6 Administration (SBA) Great Lakes region; and

7 WHEREAS, Jackie Jackson received the Illinois Small
8 Business Person of the Year award during National Small
9 Business Week, which took place from April 28 to May 4, 2024,
10 in recognition of 33.5 million small businesses across the
11 U.S. that power the national economy and serve as the backbone
12 of local communities; and

13 WHEREAS, A native of Chicago, Jackie Jackson is a former
14 teacher and property investor turned franchise owner of
15 Kilwins, a Michigan-based chocolatier and ice cream shop,
16 beginning her operations in 2008 with one Kilwins shop in
17 Orland Park and 10 employees; today, she owns five Kilwins
18 shops in the Chicago area and employs more than 75 people; and

19 WHEREAS, Jackie Jackson's business journey has not been
20 without its pitfalls, including store break-ins, the COVID-19
21 pandemic, personal challenges, and operational struggles such
22 as inflation; despite these challenges, she has persevered

1 through adversity, with the SBA noting that she serves as a
2 model of resilience, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Jackie Jackson has bestowed her business acumen
5 on her daughter, Janel Jackson, who has worked at Kilwins
6 since she was 14 years old and became her mother's business
7 partner after graduating from college; and

8 WHEREAS, Ever the entrepreneur, Jackie Jackson has
9 expressed plans to expand her Kilwins Hyde Park through
10 opening an outdoor patio space, or "Chocolate Garden", behind
11 the store in July 2024; before that, she plans to open a
12 Fatburger franchise in the Chatham neighborhood of Chicago in
13 June 2024; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we congratulate Jacqueline "Jackie" Jackson on being named the
17 2024 Illinois Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S.
18 Small Business Administration (SBA) Great Lakes region, and we
19 wish her continued success; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Jackie Jackson as an expression of our esteem and
22 respect.