



HR1456

LRB099 23671 GRL 51180 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to thank Tom Weisner for his hard work as Mayor of the City of Aurora; and

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WHEREAS, In his more than 11 years as Mayor of Aurora, Tom Weisner has propelled the former "blue collar town" into the 21st century as a high-performing, progressive city by strengthening neighborhoods, revitalizing Aurora's riverfront core, promoting sustainable development practices, developing a top-notch telecommunications infrastructure, and vastly reducing crime; and

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WHEREAS, By focusing on public-private partnerships to spur revitalization, Tom Weisner successfully cleaned up polluted riverfront areas and breathed new life into Aurora's downtown urban core, most recently through the creation of RiverEdge Park, a spectacular new music venue on the banks of the Fox River; and

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WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Tom Weisner, Aurora has experienced a significant decrease in crime, a trend highlighted by national media in 2012 when Aurora reported zero homicides; he also took strong and early action during his first term to blunt the effects of the Great Recession, cutting

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1 costs and improving efficiencies in order to maintain a high
2 level of services for Aurora residents; as a result, Aurora
3 continues to be one of very few Illinois cities to maintain a
4 AA rating for both General Obligation and Water Revenue bonds;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Tom Weisner has made the development of a skilled
7 workforce a priority for Aurora in order to ensure a growing
8 economy and plentiful job opportunities; he led the effort to
9 create new educational structures in Aurora, from early
10 education (SPARK) to STEM education (Aurora University John C.
11 Dunham STEM Partnership School), to high school skills training
12 (Pathways to Prosperity); and

13 WHEREAS, Tom Weisner assumed the Chairmanship of the
14 Chicago Metropolitan Mayors Caucus in November of 2013; he is
15 the Kane/Kendall representative to the Chicago Metropolitan
16 Agency for Planning (CMAP), a member of the Illinois Municipal
17 League Executive Board, and a past President of Metro West
18 Council of Governments; he was appointed as Director of the
19 Illinois Toll Highway Authority by Governor Pat Quinn and
20 serves as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee at the
21 Tollway; he is the founding Chairman of the Northwest Water
22 Planning Alliance, a collaborative planning organization
23 involving municipalities and counties in a five-county area of
24 the Chicago suburbs; he also serves as Chairman of the Board

1 for OnLight Aurora, a public-private partnership created to
2 connect Aurora schools, hospitals, and businesses to a 50-mile
3 fiber optic network; and

4 WHEREAS, Tom Weisner was the founding Chairman of the
5 Aurora East Educational Foundation, Chair of the Quad County
6 Urban League, and a board member of United Way, Family
7 Counseling Services, and several other non-profit
8 organizations; and

9 WHEREAS, Prior to being elected Mayor, Tom Weisner served
10 the City of Aurora for nearly 20 years overseeing a number of
11 city operations, including emergency management, public
12 properties, and organizational development; he and his wife,
13 Marilyn, also served in the Peace Corps, assisting rain forest
14 dwellers in the highlands of Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands; and

15 WHEREAS, Tom Weisner serves as a model of hard work,
16 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
17 Illinois; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 thank Tom Weisner for his hard work as Mayor of the City of
21 Aurora and wish him great success and happiness in his future
22 endeavors; and be it further

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