

**AURORA TOWNSHIP
KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
RESOLUTION 2024-15**

**RECOGNIZING THE WEST EOLA MEXICAN BOXCAR CAMP AND THE
HISTORICAL AUSTIN-WESTERN IMMIGRANT WORKING-CLASS
NEIGHBORHOOD**

WHEREAS, Aurora Township (the “Township”) desires to celebrate the rich and diverse history of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes the contributions of generations of working-class immigrants who helped to make Aurora, Illinois, a major railroad town and major manufacturing center; and

WHEREAS, the Township specifically wishes to recognize the history of the West Eola boxcar camp, which was the home to some of the first Mexican immigrants to our community; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 150 people lived at the boxcar camp and established a Mexican community and identity, a church, and religious societies for adults and youth; and

WHEREAS, boxcar camp residents maintained their cultural traditions, Spanish language and religion and was the only Mexican community, religious institutions, or significant Mexican identity in the Aurora area at the time;

WHEREAS, the boxcar camp closed in 1934 and many residents moved into the unincorporated area near Austin Western Company, previously known as the Western Wheeled Scraper Company; and

WHEREAS, residents working at the Austin-Western plant formed the Aurora Latin American Club and eventually acquired a building across from the plant in 1966; and

WHEREAS, the Aurora Latin American Club became the social center for many of Aurora's families, united Mexicans and Mexican-Americans and instilled pride in Mexican heritage as well as promoted education and political involvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees recognizes the historical nature of the West Eola Boxcar Camp and unincorporated neighborhood near Austin Western Company, and designates it a historical neighborhood

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees request that the Highway Commissioner shall erect appropriate signs to recognize the designation.

PASSED by the Aurora Township Board of Trustees, this 25th day of April 2024.



Township Supervisor

William Catching

ATTEST:



Township Clerk

Cassidy Alexander