

House Resolution 339

By: Representatives Hitchens of the 161st, Wilson of the 80th, Oliver of the 82nd, and Evans of the 83rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and congratulating Brookhaven Police Chief Gary Yandura as Georgia's
2 2020-2021 Outstanding Police Chief of the Year; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Brookhaven Police Chief Gary Yandura is highly regarded by the citizens of
4 his community and state and by local government officials as a person of unquestioned
5 integrity, humility, and dedication to the sound principles of law enforcement; and

6 WHEREAS, he began his career in 1975 with the Lake Forest, Illinois Police Department,
7 where he rose through the ranks over the next 24 years to the rank of deputy chief prior to
8 accepting his appointment as chief of the College Police Department in 1999, the Hiram
9 Police Department in 2010, and finally the newly formed Brookhaven Police Department in
10 April 2013; and

11 WHEREAS, Chief Yandura earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Illinois and a
12 Master of Public Administration from Roosevelt University; and

13 WHEREAS, Chief Yandura graduated from the Northwestern University School of Police
14 Staff and Command in 1991 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement
15 Development Program in 2001; and

16 WHEREAS, he has served as chief of police for the City of Brookhaven Police Department,
17 a full service and revered law enforcement agency, for the last seven years; and

18 WHEREAS, as chief of police, he led the College Park and Brookhaven police departments
19 to earn state certification through the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification
20 Program; and

21 WHEREAS, during his tenure, the department has bolstered police-community relations,
22 particularly among minority and historically disengaged communities, including the creation
23 of the Citizens Police Academy, which is conducted in English and Spanish; Citizens on
24 Patrol; Police Explorers; and Shop with a Badge; and

25 WHEREAS, the Brookhaven Police Department was the first agency to enter into a
26 public-private partnership to post automated license plate readers throughout the city; and

27 WHEREAS, during the last seven years, the city has experienced a dramatic reduction in
28 violent crime and was recognized in 2016 and 2017 as the Safest City in DeKalb County by
29 Safe Home; and

30 WHERAS, Chief Yandura has served on numerous board and advisory committees,
31 including the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the State Associations
32 of Chiefs of Police (SACOP) Committee, the Georgia Compensation of Police and Sheriffs
33 (COPS) Task Force, the Joint Committee on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors, the
34 Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Board, Georgia's Domestic Fatality Review
35 Committee, the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) Advisory Board,
36 the Georgia Crisis Intervention Advisory Board, and Atlanta Metropol; and

37 WHEREAS, Chief Yandura has been united in love and marriage to his wife, Lynne, for
38 more than 34 years, and they have two outstanding children; and

39 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the members of this body show their
40 gratitude for the unique and often unheralded contributions of Chief Yandura and all local
41 law enforcement officers on behalf of the citizens of this state.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body commend the care, courage, and selfless dedication exhibited by
44 Brookhaven Police Chief Gary Yandura in carrying out the difficult duties of his vocation
45 and congratulate him upon his recognition as Georgia's 2020-2021 Outstanding Chief of the
46 Year.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
49 Brookhaven Police Chief Gary Yandura.