



SPEAKER REGISTRATION FORM



COOK COUNTY AND FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS

Thank you for registering to speak at a meeting of the Cook County Board or Forest Preserve District Board. Each person who registers will have three minutes to address the board or committee. You may bring documents for the Board to consider and/or you can submit written comment electronically to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Witness Name Paul Severin MD FAAP

Organization (if any) Stroger Hospital

City Chicago

State IL

ZIP 60612

*Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or email us. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak

Cook County Board of Commissioners

*Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or email us.

*What do you want to do? Mark a check next to your choice

ATTEND THE MEETING and

SPEAK IN FAVOR of a specific item

SPEAK IN OPPOSITION to a specific item

SPEAK FOR INFORMATION ONLY

DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING but

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may email written comments)

REGISTER IN OPPOSITION to a specific item (You may email written comments)

PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may email written comments)

Dear Respected Leaders:

Simply put, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit cares for the sickest of children and adolescents. Our patients are acutely ill and many have life threatening injuries or burns. We care for them because many are not welcomed elsewhere and have nowhere else to go; they are the poor, the suffering, the excluded, the discarded, the sick and the dying. We welcome these families and their children, not because of their race, gender or creed, but because they are our sisters and brothers. We care for them willingly and without regret. Certainly, many can be treated elsewhere, but not with the same passion and skill we possess or the mission that guides us. Pediatric critical care physicians serve as the last bastion of civilization for many of these children. We are humbled to care for such wonderful children and provide support to their families. Our excellent outcomes speak for themselves. Allow us to continue our work with all the pediatric resources needed and further contribute to the health of all children and adolescents who come to us. Even if we help just a single child, always remember this: "He who saves a life, saves the world." Wouldn't you want to say you were a part of that? We cannot carry out this mission without general pediatric inpatient services and support. Thank you.

Ramon Williams

Ramon Williams

Ramon Williams

My name is Taschaunda Hall I am a mother of two and a 16 year employee at The Cook Country
Recorders office. I have over a dozen years of knowledge handling Plats, Mortgages, Liens,
deeds, revenue stamps and other legal documents .I am currently at risk of being laid off in 48
days. This is simply because Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough has chosen a process to
combine the offices duties. This merger requires every Recorder of Deeds employee to reapply
for the jobs we have been performance for years regardless of our experience or seniority. This
horrible idea was not shared with the staff or union. This tacky practice would cause my family
to lose our health insurance, life insurance, and income all during a worldwide pandemic. I have
an eighteen year old daughter currently enrolled at Lane College in Tennessee. If this layoff
takes effect I will have to tell her that her dreams of graduating at an HBCU have been crushed.
Black children in Chicago are dealing with Covid-19, systemic racism, and lack of resources
every day, and now I have to crush the dreams of a young black CPS graduate who has suffered
so much in 2020. I promised her if she went on to gain a higher education I would help her
financially. Now that I am a risk of being laid off I cannot help my young black daughter to earn
her education. Please please, please do not allow Clerk Yarbrough to toss out myself and over 6
dozen employees this Christmas. I beg you to contact myself and my coworker to have a zoom
meeting to discuss this horrible merger / layoff plan if you want to learn more.

My name is Regina Clark

I work for cook county Recorder of Deeds please save my job

Hi, my name is Tonya Blue-Cobb

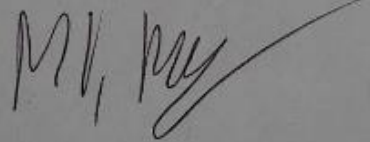
I currently work for the Cook County Recorder of Deeds please save my job

To Whom it may concern.

I Michael Magness has worked in
the Recorder of Deeds office for
over 20 yrs. I still have a family
to provide for. I have served in
multiple Depts. I am an asset.

P.S. I Need My Job.

Michael Magness

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MI, Mag", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

To Whom It may
Concern:

I, Barry Murphy a employee of Cook County
Recorder office who work in Doc. Plat review
is asking for Mercy due to my family
livehood, I have been employed for 18 years
in this Great Establishment to help the
citizens of Chicago and Cook County. I am
"65 years old and spoked about at this time
How I will Feed my Family?" Please if u can
assist the Recorder employees; I thank u in
advances

Sincerely

Barry Murphy
Barry Murff

9-22-20

To All Commissioners

I am sending letter to you about we were all told Dec 1st 2020. Jobs will be eliminated for everyone, Terrible not fair for person worked all these yrs.

I have work 21 yrs in Dec 2020. I am a hard worker. I am very depe[n]abl person plus hard worker. They should be grateful and lucky to have me working at "Record of Deeds". We should not have to reapply to Bid on jobs. Plus get different types jobs.

We are months behind in work. Document sitting in cabinets & room waiting to get done.

Sometimes when we get to document checks person sent to us are to old. Has to be sent back to person. That is a shar people wondering why checks have not be cashed sitting in cabinets.

Please help workers with Union s

Thank You,
Diane Tripp

9-23-20

To whom it may concern;

My name is Antonette Schnell.

I work in the office which was the Recorder of Deeds office for 18 years. I was told that if we voted for the merger in 2016 that our office was merging with the Cook County Clerks office. We were told numerous times that we are merging with the Clerks office now as of lately I've been informed that we are no longer going to be merging with the Clerks office and will be unemployed as of this coming "ember."

I don't know why we are no longer

②

9-23-20

going to be unemployed and very unsure and unaware of what type of job that I might be able to apply for.

All we are asking for is to be informed about what is going to happen to us.

We all know that things change but at the end of it all we have families and bills to pay. We are also going through a pandemic that won't be going anywhere too soon so where could I go to get a new job during this trying times.

We are just asking for fairness and honesty and transparency as to

③

9-23-20

as to what our future is

still been here 18 yrs. and
was looking forward to the new office
and to retire at the appropriate time and
this is not the time for uncertainty.

incerely

Antonette Auld

773.812-1419.

To All Commissioners:

My Name is Alex Vargas, and I've been an Employee of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds for 23 Years Now. When I First Heard About the Recorder's Office Merging with the Clerks Office a Few Years Ago, I Thought at First It would be good thing, But then I Noticed that along with the Merger Comes layoffs and Workforce Reductions. Now I think, to me this is Really Unfair Because A Lot of People Need their Jobs, and that they Don't Want to End Up Moving Somewhere Else, nor Trying to Re-Apply for Another Job Position (If there's one Available). Now It's time for all of Us to Fight and Secure our Jobs. Another thing I Noticed Also is the Unfair Treatment of the CCRD Employees (Especially Me) and the Strict Policies that go Along with It. We Need to ~~Take~~ Take Back our Power and our Dignity and let ~~the~~ Karen Yarbrough Know that Enough is Enough.

HELLO MY NAME,
IS JAN HYDE I HAVE BEEN
EMPLOYED AT THE RECORDER OF DEEDS
OFFICE FOR 27 YEARS. ME & MY
CO-WORKERS THOUGHT WE WERE MERGING
WITH VITAL CLERKS OFFICE TO OUR
SURPRISE WE ARE NOT WE ARE LOSING
OUR JOBS THIS IS VERY UNFAIR I
HAVE BEEN A HARD WORKER & A
TEAM PLAYER WHEN NEEDED. PLEASE
LOOK INTO THIS MATTER THIS IS
WRONG TO DO THIS TO US.

Sincerely,

Jan Hyde 9/23/23

Sept. 23, 2020

To whom it may Concern,
I am a Employee of the Cook County Recorder's Office since October of 1998

It has always been my Understanding that the Recorder's Office and the Clerks Office would be Merged.
Now As we have returned to work from the Pandemic we have now been informed that the merge has not turned into an Office closing for the Recorder's Office. This job is how we pay our mortgages etc our lives. We are being forced out as though we don't matter. "We all matter" We are Asking that you allow us to continue doing the jobs that we have been performing for the two decades so that we may continue on with the quality of life that we all deserve.

Mrs. L. Graham

To Whom it My Concern:

I Joseph Alvarez have been working for the Recorder of Deeds Office for twenty Nine years. I have a family of five with two Children in college and a mortgage. Due to the office plans of closing i would have to find a new Job at the age of fifty three I'm hoping and praying that you will help the Recorder of Deeds employees Save there Jobs.

Sincerely yours
Joseph Alvarez



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Witness Name Dr Ahmed Nadeem

Organization (if any) Provident Hospital of Cook County Emergency Room

City Chicago

State IL

ZIP 60615

*Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or email us. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak

Board of Commissioners Thursday 9/24 Meeting

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PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may email written comments)

Dear Board of Commissioners,

I'm Dr Ahmed Nadeem, an attending physician in the Provident Hospital Emergency Department. I do not feel it is the right decision for the county to close the Emergency Room at Provident hospital. At this time, we are in the middle of a pandemic and the at the cusp of the start of a busy flu and asthma season. Closing our ER doors to the population will only endanger them - they will be forced to go to other ERs and other hospitals. Please keep in mind that Mercy hospital and Holy Cross hospitals are also decreasing their services in the next couple of months. I feel that the surrounding hospitals and their resources will be overwhelmed. This will lead to longer wait times in the EDs and compromise the delivery of healthcare. If anything, we should be expanding our services to accommodate the patients who were going to Mercy and Holy Cross hospitals.

We take care of the underserved population including homeless and uninsured patients. In the middle of a pandemic and busy flu season, where are these patients going to go? Other hospitals are private and would have limitations to the care they can provide to such patients. At provident ER, we treat our patients irrespective of their ability to pay for healthcare and where they come from - we are unified in our goal to treat all patients.

We see a lot of sick patients in the ER. Some of my sickest patients in the past 2 weeks have included heart attack/gunshot and acute stroke patients in addition to my colleagues treating drug overdose, dialysis and multiple sepsis patients. Keep in mind those are just some of our patients.

I saw three COVID+ patients on my last shift in the ER. All of them thanked me for being there. One asked me about my PPE and N-95 respirator that i had on and how it stopped me from getting the virus. She went on to say that she and her whole family have always come to Provident hospital for their care and commented on how one of the docs saved her dads life in the ED years ago. She then stated that she always keeps our staff in her prayers. I thanked her.

I feel that we as healthcare professionals should be asking ourselves how we can do better for our population when healthcare centers around us are closing down in the middle of a pandemic. We have an ethical responsibility to serve the community as they depend on us. Please keep in mind that downsizing the ER or converting it to an urgent care would not serve that purpose. Please keep the doors to the Emergency Room at Provident hospital open.

thanks

Dr. Ahmed Nadeem



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Witness Name Jingpin Li

Organization (if any) Cook county family medicine

City Chicago

State IL

ZIP 60607

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PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may email written comments)

Closing the Near South clinic would be a huge loss for Cook County. One of the things that drew me to do my residency training here was the commitment to serving all the underserved populations of Chicago, including the Chinese population, which is unique of the many programs I applied to in the Midwest. Though comparatively small in the general patient population of County, Chinese patients are the major minority group at Near South who speak – often exclusively – a non-English language, to the point that the lack of Chinese-speaking support staff has been keenly felt. Many of our patients live around Chinatown – many walk to clinic to come see us - and it is unlikely that they would be able to follow us to Provident, particularly given the COVID pandemic making the fear of buses, ridesharing and even going into a hospital at an all-time high. With Mercy closing as well, we leave these patients with few options for comprehensive, high quality care.

I don't know how to tell my patients that our system doesn't have the budget to continue to care for them anymore. I urge the Board to work towards a compromise that would continue to allow Near South to maintain a presence in this community.

Thank you,
Jingpin Li

September 22, 2020

Thank you, commissioners, for reading my statement.

Hello, my name is Tondalya Thomas. I am a current Cook County Recorder of Deed employee. I've been employed with the Recorder's office for 25 years. During my tenure, I have worked in vital areas throughout the office including property fraud unit. My co-workers and I have recently learned that the Clerk office will not merge with the Recorder of Deeds, but ALL current Recorder of Deeds employees will be eliminated, and we will have to apply for a new position performing the same duties while competing with external applicants "if we meet the minimum qualifications."

This is just preposterous to eliminate employees with 10, 15, 20, 30 years of knowledge that has been providing services to cook county constituents for decades. In 48 working days, and on December 4th our lives will change forever. With uncertainty of future healthcare, some of my co-workers are pressuring their doctors to complete surgeries or procedures, that they may have held off in the past.

Employees were looking forward to receiving their plaque or certificate for the dedicated years of service, instead we will now receive EXIT PAPERS, how to file for unemployment, and our last paycheck on December 11th. This is an awfully wrapped holiday gift to provide employees that have dedicated their time for decades, and work even harder during the heart of the pandemic to keep County services running. We, the workers of Cook County Recorder of Deeds should not be kicked to the curb like used furniture- not during an economic crisis and not EVER.

Sincerely,

Tondalya Thomas

I have been a dedicated worker for the Recorder of Deeds office for 22 years, working as an Real Estate Indexer. My expectations and understanding was that the Recorder of Deeds office was going to merge and partner with the clerks office. I was devastated to find out that I will no longer have a job due to the office being closed down eliminating all positions. This drastic change will place me, as well as others, in financial hardship. It is truly unfair to those who have put in so many years of dedicated services, to have to apply for a new hire position and sacrifice the benefits they may have accumulated on their journey. It would be a genuine gesture for the county clerk to do the right thing and bargain with the union over placement of workers.

Thank You

I am Dr. Philip Wong, a family doctor at the Near South Clinic and I am opposed to the closing of the Near South Clinic as proposed in the CCH budget.

I was a general practice doctor in Hong Kong and came to the US for postgraduate training in Family Medicine at the Cook County Hospital in 1981. I have been a full-time Attending Faculty of the Cook County Family Medicine Residency Training Program working at the Near South Health Center near Chinatown for almost 20 years. I was the only Chinese doctor at the clinic for the first 10 years and then I had to go to China with my family in 2007. Then they started hiring other Chinese doctors as I had so many Chinese patients at that time. I returned to my prior position from China in 2012 and now we have 6 Chinese doctors in the clinic and about 7% of our patients are Chinese. Many of them don't speak any English and many walk to the clinic. It will be very difficult for them if we close the clinic especially as the Mercy Hospital might also close next year. I also know that there is a lack of doctors at another Chinese physicians office in Chinatown and they have to turn away many patients. I and other Chinese doctors and local community leaders would ask the board to not close the clinic for the need of these underserved minority patients and the hope of these minority doctors who would like to continue serving them. The building has been rented to us by the City of Chicago for a nominal fee for all these years because of the needs of the community and I hope this will continue.

Hi my name is miguel carrion I have worked at the cook County recorder of deeds for 22 years. I writing to you today because cook County clerk Karen Yarbrough is trying to take my job away. Four years ago, cook County voters voted to merge the cook county recorders office in to the cook county clerks office no one believed when they took that vote in 2016 that the front line positions would be eliminated or that long time employees would be terminated.cook county clerk Karen Yarbrough has chosen a process to combine the offices that would require every recorder of deeds employees to reapply for jobs they've been doing for many years regardless of experience or seniority. The clerks is requiring all of us to submit resumes and sit for job interviews (if we qualify for our jobs) This is not fair. We are requesting a meeting with the cook county commissioners this week to discuss how we can fix situation. Please don't let clerk Yarbrough to eliminate my job and the jobs of my fellow co-workers we're simply asking to save our jobs and lively hoods. Thank you miguel carrion.

In regards to the final implementation & merger my greatest concern, is the plan to eliminate the Recorder of Deeds office, employees & duties too have union members reapply to jobs in which, we have operated for decades is totally unfair. I've been employed & rendering service to the public for, 16yrs in the Recorder of Deeds office. In addition; I have fulfilled duties in various departments starting; in Microfilm library, tract departing & microfilm retrieval. Presently, working in the security department. As a member of the union this is devastating news to myself & co- workers to endure the possibility of loosing our lively hoods & extensive years of service. Many would agree that COVID-19 is more than enough to withstand.

I am asking, the Commissioners for your much needed support on getting the County Clerk to agree to bargain with union over the placement of workers due to the Recorder's of Deeds office closing. Last but not least I, would like to thank the commissioners for taking time out to hear us out!

Respectfully Submitted; Delilah Clark

(Important notation) this letter is for Sept. 24, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. For, file# 20-4191 for the final Implementation plan report



SHERIFF THOMAS DART
Cook County Sheriff's Office
Richard J. Daley Center
50 Washington Street, Suite 704
Chicago, Illinois 60602

September 17, 2020

Via Electronic Mail
Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County President

Via Electronic Mail
Secretary to the Board
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Dear President Preckwinkle and Commissioners,

The New York Times recently investigated the challenges that COVID-19 presents to the child abuse and neglect system. Calls to child abuse hotlines have plummeted nationwide, aided by the pandemic that has severed children's interactions with teachers, counselors and doctors who are required by law to report signs of abuse or neglect. My office has reached out to Illinois Department of Children and Family Services ("DCFS") to offer the support of the Sheriff's Police Child Rescue Unit, in order to ensure that regular home visits and check-ins are taking place.

I know that you have always supported our efforts that protect the health and welfare of children. I wanted you to be aware that we identified solutions to safely facilitate home visits and welfare checks normally conducted by DCFS as mandated by the Juvenile Court Act. Child welfare proceedings cannot be held in abeyance, as even without a pandemic there are endless junctures for additional trauma to children and families as they wait for the system to move through each procedural step.

We have made this a priority in order to place the best interests of children at the forefront.

My staff is available, as always, to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Dart".

Thomas J. Dart
Cook County Sheriff

Honorable Cook County Commissioners,

My name is Laurie Cruz. My employment at the Cook County Recorder of Deeds began on January 16, 1991 when I was only 18 years old. I began in an entry level position as a clerk and was very eager to learn all I could about the Recorder of Deeds Office. Throughout the years I was the type of employee that always volunteered to be trained in multiple departments, volunteered to work overtime, had excellent attendance and followed the office policies. My excellent work ethics and loyalty to the Recorder of Deeds Office gained the attention of the management staff. This resulted in several upgrades and promotions. Today I hold the position of the Bridgeview Office Satellite Supervisor. I proudly manage the services offered by the Recorder of Deeds Office to Suburban Cook County businesses and citizens.

In 2016 the citizens of Cook County voted on a referendum that was believed to be a “merge of 2 county offices”. Now the same referendum is being referred to as an “assumption of duties”. The Cook County Clerk will be assuming the duties of the Recorder of Deeds Office but for some reason she will not assume the employees who currently perform those duties. Instead the Cook County Clerk chooses to NOT take these experienced employees but to hire new employees to perform these duties. This decision is not only unfair to all the employees at the Recorder of Deeds but it is unfair to all the Cook County businesses and citizens that utilize the Recorder’s Office. This merge was presented as a way for Cook County to save a predicted \$1 million dollars annually to the taxpayers of Cook County. Eliminating experienced employees and replacing them with new employees does not provide any kind of savings for Cook County taxpayers.

As a 29 year employee of Cook County, I am very disappointed that this is being allowed. It shows no respect or appreciation to my dedicated service to Cook County. As a Cook County taxpayer, I am also very disappointed. From time to time I myself utilize the services provided by Cook County and I rely on experienced and knowledgeable employees.

On the date planned for the elimination of the Recorder of Deed employees I will be 5 months short of my 30 years of service. Although I am not ready to retire, one of the benefits for working at Cook County is the retirement package. These few months may not seem like they matter much but these 5 months have altered my whole pension. I would have been eligible to retire with full pension benefits in October 2022 if I continued to be employed with Cook County. If I am not hired to work for the Cook County Clerk, I will not be eligible to receive my full benefits for another 12 years in October 2032. This is devastating for someone who has been so dedicated to working for Cook County. I know I am not the only employee who will be impacted this way. There are many more long time Cook County employees that work in the Recorder’s Office.

Today I ask that the Cook County Clerk and the Cook County Commissioners reconsider this decision. Save the jobs of hard working employees like myself and continue to provide the Cook County taxpayers with the service they deserve.

Kindest Regards,

Laurie Cruz

Doctors Council SEIU represents the attending physicians, dentists, and psychologists of Cook County Health. As such, our members – including the undersigned – are always concerned about timely access to quality healthcare services, especially for underserved communities of color. This is especially so now during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately affected these communities and caused them to suffer the most.

We cannot support Cook County Health's FY2021 budget because it includes facility closures, cuts to healthcare services, and layoffs. We strongly oppose CCH's plans to eliminate the Pediatric Inpatient Unit; privatize the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center and Morton East Adolescent Health Center; downgrade the Provident Emergency Department to an urgent care center; and close both the Near South and Woodlawn Health Clinics. These services are vital to the health and well-being of our patients and to cut them or reduce access to healthcare in any other way in the midst of a brutal pandemic is an egregious act that will surely do harm to our communities.

Compounding the problem is the reduction of services happening on the South Side of Chicago, including the impending closure of Mercy Hospital and reduction in services at Holy Cross and Jackson Park hospitals. We appreciate that the County has publicly decried and made calls to address racial inequities in healthcare, in particular, and systemic racism, in general. But the cuts planned by CCH clearly contradict these positions.

We also strongly strongly oppose any plans to layoff County healthcare workers and believe that Cook County should work towards alternatives that would not cost workers their jobs. The County budget problems need to be solved but not on the backs of those who work for the CCH, who have given and continue to give so much to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Layoffs will also obviously worsen our local economic crisis, which has caused unemployment rates not seen since the Great Depression and has led directly to 175,000 Illinoisans losing their health insurance.

We think there's a better way. We believe it's possible for Cook County to make improvements to its services that would benefit our communities while lessening racial inequities in healthcare and stemming the tide of unemployment. We hope Cook County officials work to find a better way and stop any closures, cuts to services, and layoffs.

Sincerely,

Dr. Annie Torres
Dr. Angela Bales
Dr. David Carr
Dr. Satra Mishra
Dr. Natasha Margeta
Dr. Chandra Chataut
Dr. Marlon Garcia
Dr. Fayez Mekael
Dr. Melanie Watson
Dr. Lisa Palivos
Dr. Salman Khan
Dr. Justin Gandia

Dr. Sully Cardona
Dr. Pierre Nunez
Dr. Patricia Hoyos
Dr. Manisha Ogale
Dr. Tapan Bhatt
Dr. Nirmla Verma
Dr. Jon Tottleben
Dr. Alvi Saad
Dr. Michelle Sergel
Dr. Padma Kudaravalli
Dr. Ramez Haddadin
Dr. Brenda Taylor
Dr. Nicole Baltrushes Hughes
Dr. Ameena Khan
Dr. Elma Augustine
Dr. Leszek Balla
Dr. Maia Feigon
Dr. Lillian Holloway
Dr. Jordan Moskoff
Dr. Vishwanath Agrawal
Dr. Carmen Adams
Dr. Rajesh Dudani
Dr. Paul N. Severin
Dr. Jacek Ubaka
 Dr. Nuzath Hussain
Dr. Kimberly Dixon
Dr. Sadhana Dharmapuri
Dr. Mary Arlandson
Dr. Harold Fuentes
Dr. Aisha Wright
Dr. Dhara P. Amin
Dr. Robert Feldman
Dr. Alessandra Tachauer
Dr. Sheila Badri
Dr. Hector Vydas
Dr. Yaveen Santhiraj
Dr. Abed Rahman
Dr. John Case
Dr. Carmella Barrett-Perry
Dr. Ruhi Shariff
Dr. Erik Ligas
Dr. Ioana Haratau
Dr. Michael Giovingo
Dr. Dipika Patel

Dr Kyngran Shim
Dr. Rhonda Y. Gans
Dr. Carolyn Adams-Winn
Dr. John Keen
Dr. Chinedu Oranu
Dr. Swati Bhobe
Dr. Caroline Kato
Dr. Rafael Turbay
Dr. Tatyana Kagan
Dr. Linda Strozdas
Dr. Philip Wong
Dr. Simon Piller
Dr. Michael Escoto

To the Board of Commissioner

Re: Budget cuts affecting Provident Hospital of Cook County

I have had the humble opportunity of serving the patients of south of side of Chicago/Cook county at Provident Hospital of Cook County. I can verify from my personal experience that our population truly depends on the care we provide (outpatient, in-patient and emergency services).

With the recent proposed closure of Mercy hospital (and Michael Reese in the remote past), Provident Hospital will be the only facility providing care to 18 square miles of the south side of Chicago. Yes, a stand-by emergency room and 10 in-patient bed facility will be providing care for the underserved population of 18 square miles of the third largest city in the U.S. Considering the precarious and unstable financial conditions of the various south side hospital systems (St. Bernard hospital, Roseland Hospital, South Shore Hospital), the board has the opportunity to avert a foreseeable reduction in available and affordable care for our patients.

To Cook County Board of Commissioner's:

My name is Erica and I have been employed over 24 years. I do not believe that the current union members should have to start out all over again and reapply for newly posted positions and be interviewed for new positions. The current employees should have a preference of being hired before those off the street. It's only the fair thing to do. People have dedicated time and years of service where is the dignity and respect for the employees. We are being treated as if we do not matter or even exist like we are worthless. Not everyone has the option to retire. In my situation I live paycheck to paycheck and me and my three kids will be homeless. This is causing a lot of stress and anxiety for all workers. Jobs are very hard to find in this pandemic. We all matter!

Clerk Yarbrough was not transparent to the voters and others. A merger does not mean to completely eliminate all the positions in an office. Would you please reconsider and support the current employees and speak to Clerk Yarbrough on our behalf to at least help to ensure that the employees who are unable to retire and/or do not want to retire are assured some type of position upon completion of the merger. I am willing to learn new skills etc...or be place in a similar or new position to secure my employment. Commissioners can you please help support the employees and help get the County Clerk to agree to bargain with the union over the placement of the workers due to the Recorder's Office closing and as she is the Successor of not only the duties and functions of the Recorder's Office, but as the Successor of the SEIU 73 Contract as well. We desperately need you because it appears Clerk Yarbrough has no intention to cooperate and/or work with us in keeping our jobs. It is my understanding and appears that at the end of the day she is going to do what she wants. We really need your help because we all matter and we all need our jobs! This is the worst time possible to lose our jobs. We need to be treated fairly and we are not being treated fairly.

Thanks,

Erica Kruski

Respondent #2 ▼



COMPLETE

Edit

Delete

Export

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:48:21 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:58:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:00
IP Address: 67.165.161.30

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Tamer Y Abouzeid

City/Town: Forest Park

State: IL

ZIP: 60130

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting 9/24/2020 10a

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

20-3562

Q4

What do you want to do?

DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING but REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Vote in favor. It is time to protect ALL tenants in Cook County and make the responsibilities of landlords and tenants clear and fair.

COMPLETE

Edit

Delete

Export

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 21, 2020 9:27:34 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 21, 2020 9:33:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:14
IP Address: 71.201.92.13

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Keith Schnabel

Organization (if any): Lift The Bam

City/Town: Chicago

State: IL

ZIP: 60613

Q2

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County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting 9/24/2020 10a

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20-3562

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Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

We cannot allow evictions during the pandemic. The threat to public health posed by tens of thousands of evictions in the coming months is undeniable. In addition, it is a moral and practical necessity to help those who are at risk of losing their home in the midst of an economic downturn with no end in sight. The political chaos that would ensue from allowing the eviction crisis to boil over cannot be overstated.

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

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Organization (if any): Lift The Bam
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60613

Q2

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**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
9/24/2020 10a**

Q3

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20-3562

Q4

What do you want to do?

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Q5

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#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:48:21 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:58:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:00
IP Address: 67.165.161.30

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Tamer Y Abouzeid
City/Town: Forest Park
State: IL
ZIP: 60130

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
9/24/2020 10a**

Q3

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20-3562

Q4

What do you want to do?

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Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Vote in favor. It is time to protect ALL tenants in Cook County and make the responsibilities of landlords and tenants clear and fair.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 4:43:59 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 4:45:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:40
IP Address: 24.1.59.213

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Grace Chan McKibben
Organization (if any):	Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60616

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
9/24/2020 10a**

Q3

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20-4259

Q4

What do you want to do?

**DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING and PROVIDE
WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You
may add written comments below)**

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

September 23, 2020

To the Cook County Board of the Commissioners:

We write as leaders of the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community, a community planning and policy advocacy organization based in Chicago's Chinatown. We unite the voices and energies of the residents and organizations, including social service agencies, education institutions, business associations, and faith-based organizations to affect changes that benefit the Greater Chinatown Community. Through our efforts over the past two decades, we have been able to complete many initiatives that benefit the community, including bringing a state-of-the arts field house and a world-class library into the neighborhood.

We recently learned of the impending closure of the Cook County Near South Clinic. While it is heartening to hear that the historic Provident Hospital will be getting a new extension as well as extensive renovation of the current facilities so it can better serve residents of the south side, we are concerned that the current Chinese residents. Our residents are mostly recent immigrants that speak limited English, and may have to travel further to other clinics to seek medical help. Many of them are already familiar with the six Chinese doctors at the Near South Clinic, so we would like to see that a transition plan is in place to help them follow these doctors to their next clinic. We understand that all of the current staff at the Near South Clinic and the Woodlawn Clinic will be transferred to the soon-to-be-expanded Provident Hospital. However, many of the Chinatown and Bridgeport Chinese-speaking residents are already familiar with Stroger Hospital.

Our primary concern is how the needs of this particular marginalized population will be met with the new changes. With the impending closure of Mercy Hospital, our residents are losing two medical facilities that they are familiar with, and which have Chinese staff that are able to provide linguistically and culturally appropriate help. We call for community meetings to share information and collect feedback, as well as a process for the community to give input in order to facilitate a smooth service transition.

Sincerely,

Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community
and our LeadPartner Organizations:
Chinese American Museum of Chicago
Chinese American Service League
Midwest Asian American Health Association
Project: Vision
Pui Tak Center

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 21, 2020 9:52:10 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 8:56:56 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 73.75.102.87

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Evan Stahr
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60608

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
9/24/2020 10a**

Q3

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20-3562

Q4

What do you want to do?

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Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

I am in support of extending the vital protections of the Residential Landlord Tenant Ordinance to all Cook County renters.

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 24, 2020 8:20:14 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 24, 2020 8:44:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:24:34
IP Address: 99.126.108.100

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Heather Miller
Organization (if any): American Indian Center
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60625

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
9/24/2020 10a**

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Indigenous Peoples' Day Resolution

Q4

What do you want to do?

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Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

The week of September 14th, 2020 marked Racial Equity week for Cook County and what a wonderful celebration of the diversity that exists here in the County. I appreciate seeing the office of the President highlighting and uplifting the voices of communities who have historically been left out of government. Before we go any further, I want to take a brief minute to acknowledge what American Indians have known since time immemorial and that this place, Cook County, has and always will be a place to build community and has and always will be home to a thriving American Indian population. In fact, we are home to the first urban Indian center in the country as well as the 9th largest population of urban Indians. At the American Indian Center, we serve American Indians from over 100 Tribal Nations so we are an incredibly diverse community as well!

In alignment with the President's views on diversity, equity and inclusion we believe that it is time for institutions and organizations across this city to uphold these principals. Working to remove stereotypes, racist images and inequitable policies that uphold settler colonial ideas is key to helping members of the American Indian and really all communities live their best lives. The renaming of the holiday currently known as Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day is critical to providing an equitable space for all. Working in partnership with the American Indian Center and our allies here on the Board and in the President's office, we look forward to providing the needed education about the true history of America as well as laying the building blocks to the creation of a more equitable government system for all. Thank you for your time and the American Indian Center looks forward to continuing to be in dialogue together.
