



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Cook County Building, Board Room,
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

Consent Agenda

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 10:00 AM

Second Set

[24-1190](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT ARNOLD RANDALL TO COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, Arnold Randall has served as the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserves of Cook County since his appointment in 2010, and as the leader of one of the country's oldest and largest forest preserve districts, he has focused on restoring and protecting these lands and has been ardently committed to ensuring that all people feel welcome in the forest preserves; and

WHEREAS, because of his leadership as General Superintendent, the Forest Preserves is forever committed to making everyone feel welcome and to being an important asset to Cook County residents. Under his direction the Forest Preserves dedicated itself to offering innovative new programs, expanding opportunities for collaboration, adopting strategies that ensure meaningful public engagement, and developing master plans and accelerating the work to expand and preserve the unique natural areas of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, through Arnold's visionary and transformative leadership, Arnold ensured the Forest Preserves has been managed with excellence, transparency, and sound financial practices. His commitment to good government has greatly improved public perception of the Forest Preserves. He worked closely with elected local officials and communicated with state and federal legislators on issues that impact the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance, the Forest Preserves made significant progress in building and strengthening relationships with hundreds of organizations in Cook County, regionally and nationally. Arnold initiated and elevated new and existing partnerships, working extensively across boundaries to leverage resources and to link new and diverse audiences with nature; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of his tenure, Arnold led a comprehensive operational audit of the agency and quickly developed and implemented key recommendations. The creation of an Employment Plan implemented by a newly created Human Resources Department resulted in the Forest Preserves becoming the second local government agency to be released from the Shakman Decree by reaching Substantial Compliance in February 2013, a finding that verified that political consideration plays no role in employment decisions for non-exempt employees at the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, he has supported the development of many strategic plans, including plans pertaining to

recreation, campgrounds, trails, natural and cultural resources, and sustainability. These investments illustrate his commitment to sound planning principles, strategic leadership, fiduciary duty, and best practices and engagement strategies; and

WHEREAS, Arnold facilitated the development and implementation of the 2014 Next Century Conservation Plan, a visionary strategy that lays out a set of bold actions to ensure that the Forest Preserves will continue to thrive and that the people of Cook County will treasure and sustain this amazing resource now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, he has made restoration and conservation of Cook County's important natural habitats a fundamental priority. Since 2010, the Forest Preserves has had six new Illinois Nature Preserves dedicated and four Land and Water Reserves totaling more than 3,600 acres and have grown the number of acres under active restoration management by over 15,000. He championed the 2015 Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan, a comprehensive strategy for the management of the Forest Preserves' natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, Arnold helped advance science and research by supporting the wildlife biology division's efforts to better understand wildlife health and how it relates to human health, including the creation of a state of the art wildlife research center; support for the publishing of the award winning updated Flora of the Chicago Region, a ground-breaking book that documents and details nearly 3,200 plant species and their associated organisms found in the Chicago region; hosting multiple science symposiums; and beginning to implement ecological restoration strategies to enhance the resilience of the forest preserves habitats to ensure that local plants and animals can better withstand impacts from climate change; and

WHEREAS, he has embraced the development of innovative projects, programs and initiatives, including the formation of the Conservation & Policy Council, an advisory body of distinguished civic-minded experts who generously volunteer time to the mission, established by ordinance and charged with guiding the efforts to implement the Next Century Conservation Plan - including the expansion of the Conservation Corps program; the formation of the Conservation and Experiential Programming Department, a department dedicated solely to public programming and engagement; streamlining the picnic permit, concessions and rental program to enhance visitors' experiences; and overseeing the historic re-opening of five campgrounds in the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Arnold prioritized the promotion of an infrastructure and culture that is based on equity and inclusion, forming a Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee in 2018 focused on analyzing and understanding challenges and barriers to implementing solutions based on racial equity; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure the Forest Preserves has acquired and protected nearly 1,600 acres of land, including Horizon Farm, one of the largest land purchases in the Forest Preserves most recent history and launched the creation of a new forest preserve system in Southeast Cook County, an area where people lack access to public lands and outdoor recreation. Under Arnold's leadership, the Forest Preserves and partners developed the award-winning 2019 Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan, which represents a unique and innovative approach to prioritizing acquisitions by identifying and protecting

valuable open space based not only on the ecological value of sites, but also considers criteria related to flood mitigation, economic development, health, and social vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, Arnold believes in the power of collaboration and alliances and has supported Chicago Wilderness, a regional alliance of more than 250 different organizations working together to preserve, improve, and expand nature and quality of life in the region, serving as its chair from 2012 to 2018. He has also positioned the Forest Preserves as one of the lead agencies of the Millennium Reserve Compact, a partnership of government, businesses, and nonprofit groups working together to advance a shared action agenda in the Calumet region in southeast Cook County, serving on its Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, Arnold's focus on transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility has helped the Forest Preserves restructure its budget and identify new ways to reduce costs and raise revenues and secured nearly \$135,000,000 in grant funding, including funds raised by partners. He ultimately advocated for a sustainable source of revenue for the Forest Preserves which led to the successful passage of a tax referendum in 2022, bringing in much needed resources to care for nature, improve outdoor recreation amenities, maintain infrastructure, and stabilize the Forest Preserves' pension fund; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 he supported the launch of the Forest Preserve Foundation, the Forest Preserves' philanthropic partner dedicated to protecting and restoring natural habits and to enhancing outdoor experiences for all people, to expand resources for key Forest Preserves programs and initiatives. The Forest Preserve Foundation has become a stalwart supporter of the Forest Preserves' Conservation Corps program, has helped restore critical natural areas including Cap Sauers Holdings Nature Preserve, and has raised more than \$3,000,000 to support the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Arnold is committed to developing, training and hiring the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders and supported and helped grow the Chicago Conservation Corps Leadership program and supported the creation of the Youth Outdoor Ambassador and the Forest Preserves Experience programs. His leadership led to continued and renewed partnerships with Friends of the Forest Preserves, Student Conservation Association, the Chicago Housing Authority, and Openlands. During his tenure, these programs have trained and employed thousands of young people in restoration, environmental education and engagement, and other skills; and

WHEREAS, Arnold is active in numerous civic and professional organizations. Affiliations have included the Chicago Community Development Commission (chair), Chicago Plan Commission, Commission on Chicago Landmarks, Public Buildings Commission, Delta Institute Board, Woodlawn Children's Promise Community, Woodlawn New Communities Program (NCP), American City Planning Directors' Council, American Planning Association, Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA), National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), South East Chicago Commission (SECC) Executive Committee, Harper Court Foundation Board, and the 53rd Street TIF Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized by both local and national organizations including becoming a "Legend" in the field of parks and recreation by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in 2022, receiving the Agency Leadership Award from the Public Lands Alliance in 2019

and most notably receiving the Motorola Solutions Foundation Excellence in Public Service Award from the Civic Federation in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Arnold's parents instilled in him a love of nature, taking him swimming, fishing and horseback riding, and Arnold, in turn, shares his respect for nature and wildlife with his wife and children; and

WHEREAS, Arnold's contributions and dedication to conserving nature and promoting and enhancing access to outdoor recreation for all people are exemplary and he leaves behind a thriving and vibrant Forest Preserves and will long be remembered as one of the most outstanding General Superintendents that has ever managed the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that President Toni Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County do hereby extend thanks to Arnold Randall for his dedication, leadership and outstanding service to the Forest Preserves and wish him continued success in his next position.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be provided to Arnold Randall in recognition of his significant contributions to Cook County.

[24-1178](#)

Sponsored by: JOHN P. DALEY, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING VINCE BALLONE ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Cook County Board of Commissioners that Vince Ballone will celebrate his 90th Birthday on January 29, 1934 and

WHEREAS, Vince Ballone immigrated to the United States in 1959 and settled in Chicago, and

WHEREAS, Vince Ballone purchased a building located at 2845 South Wallace Avenue in the Bridgeport neighborhood and started Vince's Barber shop in 1960, and

WHEREAS, Vince Ballone's barbering experience dated back to 1955 where he studied as an apprentice under a master barber in Casteltermini, Sicily, and

WHEREAS, Vince Ballone was trained in the art of straight razor shaving, mud pack facial treatments, clipper cuts, razor cuts, blow-dry and styling during his time in Sicily and brought those skills to his

barbershop in Chicago, and

WHEREAS, Vince's Barbershop became a staple in the Bridgeport community serving local residents, and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Vince's son Gino joined Vince in the family business that successfully continues to this day at Vince and Gino's Hair Designs on 2845 South Wallace Avenue, and

WHEREAS, generations of Bridgeport customers continue to visit Vince and Gino's Hair Designs for the same high-quality barbering and good company Vince established at the start of the family-owned business in 1960, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby extend its warmest wishes and congratulations to Vince Ballone on the occasion of his 90th Birthday, and join all who have had the pleasure of his friendship in wishing him still more years of good health and richly deserved happiness, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and an official copy of same be presented to Vince Ballone to commemorate this joyous occasion.

[24-1183](#)

Sponsored by: SCOTT R. BRITTON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

MEMORIALIZING THE OFFICIAL POEM OF THE COOK COUNTY MUNICIPAL FLAG EXCHANGE

WHEREAS, the *I Will* flag became the official banner of Cook County on May 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS, this new flag was selected as a result of contest that drew nearly 300 student submissions from 40 high schools throughout all 17 districts of Cook County, and two years of rigorous review by a professional Flag Advisory Panel and the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the *I Will* flag, designed by Glenbrook South High School student Drew Duffy and design mentor Martin Burciaga, was selected to symbolize the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of each and every one of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2023, Cook County hosted a municipal flag exchange to further share the *I Will* flag with communities throughout Cook County; and

WHEREAS, during the municipal flag exchange, local songwriter and recording artist Daniel Shockley, known as Joel Q, preformed his original poem written for the historic occasion titled "Is that why they call

you Cook?;" and

WHEREAS, Joel Q is known for the honesty and humility that he brings to his work; and

WHEREAS, Joel Q's talent was apparent at a young age growing up in the Roseland neighborhood as he began writing poems in his first-grade class, which quickly evolved to rap as he got older; and

WHEREAS, Joel Q is a special education teacher at John W. Cook Academy, and was influenced by his mother who was a kindergarten teacher and now principal; and

WHEREAS, Joel is passionate about his students, their education, and their well-being, and often shares his music with them; and

WHEREAS, Joel Q uses his art to inform, to push boundaries, and to be a light in Chicago and the world; and

WHEREAS, "Is that why they call you Cook?" is a reflective piece about all that it means to be a Cook County resident; and

WHEREAS, the full text of "Is that why they call you Cook?" as performed by Joel Q reads:

*Since before an adolescent
one of my biggest confessions
Is that I don't know why we call you Cook
I mean when CHICAGO
is at its greatest HEIGHT
We can for sure be a light
As long as we are "WHEELING" to keep
The temperature right
So many recipes are passed down
to keep the structure in order
MAY YOUR (Mayor) ticket be
present before you step to be served
A piece of my bread goes to the city
To protect my preserves
In a county that's bubbles culture
Different sauce different words
When the stakes (STEAK) are high and brewing Like Green Tea
We ALSIP (All sip) together
for better peace
One city at a time
all communities at arms
The gold standard is mandatory*

*Especially when Cooking with grease
Sometimes I wish I can make my bread
At home and move my BEDFORD
towards the sun
And go over easy.
But from a BRIDGEVIEW
You'll never know what's on
The other side until you get across
In a county that separates no one
And ensures that they need me
We are even ranked at 6 stars
We are obviously eating good
I pray the chefs see resemblance
In each city and every neighborhood
The logo may change but the foundation
Still remains
January 15th 1831, a county was named
Rather you are white black shades of brown
the reservations for opportunities
is always available for you to book
We all eat together
I would hope
That Daniel Pope
And the Illinois legislation
thought like me
When they name you Cook*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that “Is that why they call you Cook?” be added to the County’s Archives as the official poem of the Cook County Flag Municipal Exchange, and live forever as a central tenant of Cook County’s great history; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby extend its sincerest gratitude to Joel Q for his time, talents, and creativity, for lending his voice to mark this and hereby calls for a suitable copy of this resolution to be tendered to Joel Q as a means of communicating our thanks.

[24-1184](#)

Sponsored by: SCOTT R. BRITTON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF NORTHBROOK TRUSTEE MURIEL COLLISON

WHEREAS, Muriel Collison is a fifth-generation resident of Northbrook; and

WHEREAS, Muriel Collison's family is a community staple, all living on the same street and with at least three family members attending Greenbrier Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Muriel Collison passionately began her service to the Village of Northbrook in 2013 when she was appointed as member of the Northbrook Plan Commission; and

WHEREAS, Muriel Collison faithfully served as a Plan Commission member for four years; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Muriel Collison was first elected as a Northbrook Village Trustee; and

WHEREAS, Muriel Collison was reelected in 2021; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as trustee, Muriel Collison was a champion for improving transparency and communication by the Village; and

WHEREAS, Muriel Collison used her position as trustee to advocate for supportive housing within the Village; and

WHEREAS, Muriel Collison was a leader in implementing sick leave to the Village; and

WHEREAS, after a decade of public service in dedication to the betterment of the residents of Northbrook, Muriel Collison has opted to relinquish her seat as Village of Northbrook trustee to focus on well-being of her children and family; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Commissioner Scott Britton, President Toni Preckwinkle, and the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby thank Muriel Collison for her decade of local government service, offer its best wishes to Muriel Collison as she navigates the road ahead, and congratulates Muriel Collison for her professional accomplishments and commitment to the Northbrook; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of the same be tendered to Muriel Collison as an indication of our thanks and gratitude

[24-1200](#)

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CARLOS TORTOLERO AS THE FOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART

WHEREAS, born in Nuevo Laredo, México, Carlos Tortolero moved with his family to Chicago, on Taylor Street, when he was a toddler; and

WHEREAS, Carlos Tortolero is a recipient of an Honorary Degree from Columbia College (Chicago) and an Honorary Degree from the University of Illinois (Chicago); and

WHEREAS, Carlos Tortolero graduated from UIC, he became a history teacher at Bowen High School in South Chicago, where he noticed there was a lack of Mexican and Mexican American history; and

WHEREAS, from 1975-1987, Carlos Tortolero worked as a teacher, counselor, and administrator in the Chicago Public School (CPS) System; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, he and five others, mostly Bowen colleagues, pooled \$900 to start what was then called the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum located at 1852 W 19th Street; and

WHEREAS, Carlos Tortolero's main priority when opening the National Museum of Mexican Art was to have free admissions because everyone in the community deserves access to free art; and

WHEREAS, the goal was to establish an arts and cultural organization committed to accessibility, education and social justice as well as provided a positive influence for the local Mexican community, especially since many other art institutions did not address Mexican art; and

WHEREAS, the National Museum of Mexican Art serves as a community hub in the Pilsen neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the National Museum of Mexican Art has presented over 150 exhibitions, provides arts education to 52,000 students each year, and serves over 150,000 annual visitors from 60 countries; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Carlos Tortolero won the Ohtli Award, which means "path" in Nahuatl, where the Mexican government presents the honor to "individuals who have distinguished themselves in the service of the Mexican community outside of Mexico." which is considered the highest honor; and

WHEREAS, that same year, the City of Chicago honored him with its highest award in arts, the Fifth Star Award. One year later, the Sun-Times listed him among the top 200 Illinoisans in 200 years of history; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Chicago History Museum presented him with the Harold Washington Making History Award for Distinction in Public Service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Board President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby congratulate Carlos Tortolero for his retirement from the National Museum of Mexican Art; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this text be spread upon the proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy of this resolution is presented to Carlos Tortolero for his outstanding achievements and work.

[24-1209](#)

Sponsored by: JOSINA MORITA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RONALD A. JOHNSEN, IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS, Ronald A. Johnsen lived a long and beautiful life full of family and friends passed away peacefully in his home on January 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Johnsen is survived by high school sweetheart, Gail Johnsen, who became his wife of 66 years; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Johnsen was the father of Judith (Paul) Marchi, Lori (Joe) Dauven, Jeffrey (Cathy) Johnsen and Kimberly (Norm) Bittner; and

WHEREAS, Ronald was the proud grandfather to Carissa Felber, Jamie (Jason) Wojdyla, John (Lori) Opager, Teresa Lucas, Evan Bittner, and Caroline Bittner and Caroline; great-grandchildren, Grey, Harper, Bailey and Dorothy; and

WHEREAS, Ronald is predeceased by his parents, grandsons, Matthew Natale and Terry Lindaas and brother James Johnsen; and

WHEREAS, Ronald was born Ronald A. Johnsen on May 6, 1937, to proud parents Roy A. and Laura Karls Johnsen in Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Ronald graduated high school from Lane Tech High School; and

WHEREAS, Ronald earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, Ronald retired as president of Aquamatic, Rockford in 1997, after which he and Gail enjoyed traveling the world together; and

WHEREAS, Ronald was formerly a 42-year resident of Rockford, Illinois before moving to Janesville, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Ron was a caring owner to his precious little puppy, Suzy; and

WHEREAS, Ron was a pillar of strength who worked tirelessly to provide for his family; and

WHEREAS, Ron was the rock in all of his family's lives. His wise words and unconditional love will be carried by his family forever.

WHEREAS, all who knew him will attest that Ronald Johnsen was an infinitely patient, kind and loving man admired and respected by his many friends and neighbors, and dearly loved by his family.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of Ronald A. Johnsen and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of same be tendered to the family of Ronald Johnsen that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

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