



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

**Virtual Meeting**

**Consent Agenda**

**Thursday, February 25, 2021, 10:00 AM**

[21-1366](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****NATIONAL REBUILDING DAY 2021 RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago, a volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income homes and communities, repaired its first home in suburban Cook County in 1992, and has since rehabilitated nearly 1,900 homes, as well as assisted in the development of essential community centers and gardens; and

**WHEREAS**, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is part of a national nonprofit program, which sponsors National Rebuilding Day across the country on the last Saturday in April; and

**WHEREAS**, every year Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago selects two neighborhoods in Cook County in which to provide home repair for elderly, disabled, or low income individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 3,000 volunteers annually, including Cook County employees, donate their time and talents to plan and complete hundreds of free home repairs for residents in Cook County through Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago's volunteer teams; and

**WHEREAS**, repairs typically focus on keeping homeowners "warm, safe and dry" and also improve access for low-income seniors, veterans and people with disabilities.

**WHEREAS**, on January 27, 2020 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19, a novel severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among people through respiratory transmissions, presents a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020 and;

**WHEREAS**, steps were taken to ensure the effects of COVID-19 were mitigated and minimized and that Cook County residents remain safe and secure; and

**WHEREAS**, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago made the difficult decision to cancel 2020 National Rebuilding Day activities, avoiding in-home repairs that could put anyone at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago sought new and meaningful ways to continue to provide services and remain true to their mission; and

**WHEREAS**, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago quickly adapted to this new reality and provided 400 cloth facemasks, 1,580 ounces of hand sanitizer, delivered 9,000 lbs of groceries, conducted 56 furnace

and boiler tune-ups, built 200 learn-at-home student desks, created 100 address placards to aid first responders in identifying homes, and fabricated 40 COVID-safe partitions for local shelters.

**WHEREAS**, this year Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is cautious but optimistic. As such, services to homeowners will continue in a manner that keeps volunteers and homeowners safe. Rebuilding Together hopes to resume home repairs in a phased approach as our nation moves towards restoration.

**WHEREAS**, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is an example of Cook County and other local governments working in partnership with private corporations to assist residents and communities in need; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby recognize and express Cook County's sincere gratitude to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago and its participating companies, as we work together to restore homes to a warm, safe, and dry condition; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that various departments, including but not limited to the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Administration, and the Bureau of Asset Management continue to work annually with Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago to determine project scope for the Cook County sponsored projects and coordinate volunteers annually for National Rebuilding Day activities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Administration, and Bureau of Asset Management be recognized for their ongoing efforts in determining Cook County's annual project scope and determining repairs that will be conducted by Cook County employee volunteers for National Rebuilding Day activities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago in acknowledgment of its past accomplishments and to a successful upcoming year.

[21-1728](#)

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

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

### **HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RAUL MONTES**

**WHEREAS**, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called Raul Montes Sr. from our midst on January 23, 2021 at the age of 72; and

**WHEREAS**, Raul Montes was born August 9, 1948 in Chihuahua, Mexico to Jose Montes Tapia and

Estela Sifuentes Miranda, in a family of nine children and in September 1965 immigrated to the U.S. with his family; and

**WHEREAS**, Raul Montes was a longtime resident of Little Village neighborhood on Chicago's Southwest Side and a hardworking provider for his family; and

**WHEREAS**, Raul Montes' first job was as a busboy at Marshall Field's department store in the Chicago's downtown; and

**WHEREAS**, By 1967, he was working at Western Electric, where he met Maria Gutierrez, a fellow employee. They later married in 1972; and

**WHEREAS**, Raul Montes held several City of Chicago jobs and eventually served as the 22nd Ward superintendent for the Department of Streets and Sanitation; and

**WHEREAS**, Raul Montes was always making a positive difference in people's lives and believed firmly in equity of resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Raul Montes launched a block club in the late 1970's to organize and bring resources into his neighborhood, and established block watches and activities for children and teens; and

**WHEREAS**, Raul Montes was a tireless activist and leader and was a 22nd Ward Precinct Captain for 25 years, he was part of the Black and Brown coalition movement that helped elect Mayor Harold Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, Raul Montes was a beloved husband of Maria Gutierrez, loving father of three sons: Miguel Montes, Raul Montes Jr, and Jose Montes, grandfather of three; and

**WHEREAS**, Raul Montes and his legacy will continue to be felt for generations to come. He leaves not only a family that grieves him but a community that was impacted by his contribution and convictions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of Raul Montes, and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the family of Raul Montes so that his memory may be honored and ever cherished.

[21-1730](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****HONORING SONIA SILVA ON HER 70TH BIRTHDAY AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva has been a community leader and example of compassion and dedication to those on the margins for the past 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva was born on December 28th, 1950 and raised her 4 children and six grandchildren as a single-parent; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva co-founded El Hogar del Niño in 1972 to serve the families and youth in Pilsen; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva co-founded Latino Youth in 1974, an alternative high school for those pushed out of the educational system; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva availed herself of an education-as a first generation college student-in child development at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago State University, and the School Service Administration at the University of Chicago where she learned the importance of advocating for systemic change at the policy-level; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva felt an enormous gratitude for the education she received and decided to pay it forward by working for Designs for Change, an educational research and reform organization; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva went on to work in the administration of the late, and great, Mayor Harold Lee Washington; first, in support of the Department of Personnel's goals on Affirmative Action and, second, in support of the Department of Human Services' reform of Title XX social service programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva continued her neighborhood-level civic engagement by becoming the Chief of Staff to Jesús G. "Chuy" García, then Alderman of Chicago's 22nd Ward, in 1989; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva became a national icon when she was elected in 1995 as the first Latina State Representative in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva sponsored, co-sponsored and passed numerous legislative initiatives directed toward expanding educational funding; particularly the construction of 6 schools on the southwest side of Chicago, increasing access to healthcare statewide, and ensuring the State of Illinois' place as a national leader and model in securing immigrants' access to public services; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva became an electoral organizer and union organizer with SEIU and UNITE HERE Central States, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva earned her second Master’s degree in Bilingual Education at Northern Illinois University; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva became a Chicago Public Schools bilingual elementary teacher at a school in the Back of the Yards neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva finished her career as a Hearing Officer and Contract Negotiator in Cook County’s Department of Personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva is an active advocate for the rights of the working class and immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, we can all learn from Sonia Silva’s compassion and dedication to helping communities realize their right to self-determination and empowerment; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Silva helped to inspire, challenge and support a whole new generation of community activists, organizers, and elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, this year we celebrate the selfless and heartfelt contributions of Sonia Silva to her community and the dedication she continues to exert despite her official retirement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor Sonia Silva on her 70th birthday and community leadership in the State of Illinois, the city of Chicago, and her home communities of Pilsen and Little Village and Chicago’s greater southwest side; 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 be presented to Sonia Silva in honor of this auspicious occasion.

[21-1694](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING COOK COUNTY AND ILLINOIS AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRAIL BLAZERS IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, in a times of strife and uncertainty, our great country continues to move forward and overcome the challenges placed before it, evidenced by the United States Congress achieving a new milestone in diversity this year with its highest-ever number of women and racial minority members, including sixty Black lawmakers; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of said members were elected to the House of Representatives, which has historically provided a more straightforward path to Congress in part due to voters in urban

congressional districts, which tend to be more diverse and politically progressive; and

**WHEREAS**, ascending to the Senate has been more challenging as a result of political conservatism in White majority regions of the U.S., in fact newly elected Senator Raphael Warnock is only the 11th Black U.S. Senator since the Senate convened for the first time in 1789 and only two have been women; and

**WHEREAS**, while we celebrate the Honorable Kamala Harris becoming the 1st woman, the 1st African-American, the 1st Asian-American, the 1st graduate of a historically Black college or university to be sworn in as Vice President of the United States of America, the Senate is now left without a Black female Senator and only 3 Black male Senators; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois and Cook County has played an especially important role in making history in the U.S. Senate with 3 out of the 11 Senators having hailed from Illinois and Cook County including: the Honorable Carol Moseley Braun, who became the 1st Black female U.S. Senator, the Honorable Kamala Harris being the 2nd and only other; the Honorable Barack Obama, who was the 5th Black U.S. Senator and only the third one elected by voters and proceeded to become the 1st Black President of the United States; and the Honorable Roland Burris, who was appointed in 2008 to fill President Obama's vacated seat in the U.S. Senate; and

**WHEREAS**, it's important to celebrate the progress African-Americans have made, it's equally important to remember the long struggle to overcome the barriers put in place to prevent such progress, from slavery and Jim Crow laws to suppression of minority voters, Black political candidates have long faced obstacles to representation in Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, as recent events have shown, we must remain vigilant in order to protect our democracy and our rights as citizens and strive to work together rather than work against each other to ensure it will continue to endure and progress towards a more perfect union, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting that Reverend Warnock is a senior pastor at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. served as co-pastor, and where Black voters in Atlanta and its suburbs turned out in big numbers to help him win; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of Black History Month, this Honorable Body wishes to especially honor

our Cook County and Illinois African-American trailblazers in the U.S. Senate;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners proudly honor the legacy of our very own trailblazers in the United States Senate and the historical contributions they have made to our Country; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and a suitable copy be presented to Senator Carol Moseley Braun, Senator Roland Burris and President Barack Obama as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[21-1679](#)

**Sponsored by:** PETER N. SILVESTRI, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING RUSSO POWER EQUIPMENT AS IT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS**

**WHEREAS**, since its modest beginnings on the Northwest Side of Chicago in 1970, Russo Power Equipment has evolved from a neighborhood hardware store to the premier power equipment and landscape supply dealer in the Midwest; and

**WHEREAS**, Russo Power Equipment started as Russo Ace Hardware, a small hardware store on Montrose Avenue in Chicago's Northwest Side; and

**WHEREAS**, founded by the late Frank Russo Sr. in 1970, a first-generation Italian immigrant, the hardware store for many years was run by Frank Sr., his wife Armanda, and their three sons Ralph, Frank Jr., and Tony; and

**WHEREAS**, for the next decade or so, the store was run primarily by the Russo brothers. It is during this time that they were labeled by a large franchise as "destined to fail"; and

**WHEREAS**, unintimidated, Russo Power Equipment continued to add more lines of business, more locations, and more employees; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1998, the first Russo Power Equipment location opened on Dakin Avenue in Dunning Square on Chicago's Northwest Side, and in 2000, RussoPower.com was launched; and

**WHEREAS**, Russo Power relocated in 2005 to its current headquarters in Schiller Park, featuring a 28,000 square-foot showroom; and

**WHEREAS**, Russo Power Equipment has continued to expand since that time to Naperville, Lemont, Hainesville, Frankfort, and other sites throughout the area; and



**WHEREAS**, Russo Power is an environmentally friendly business, recycling more than 18,000 pounds of metal; 15,000 pounds of paper; 7,000 pounds of plastic; and 7,000 pounds of mixed materials every year; and

**WHEREAS**, today Russo has five commercial retail locations, three bulk road salt supply sites, and an e-commerce fulfillment center, employing roughly 250 employees with plans to expand its operations further; and

**WHEREAS**, being a local, family-owned-and-operated business, Russo Power Equipment has taken pride in personally getting to know its customers, large and small, to provide the unparalleled service that has come to be expected over the past fifty years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate Russo Power Equipment for its fifty years in business; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Russo Power Equipment as token of our appreciation of its long history.