



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

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

**BOARD NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 16, 2026, 11:00 AM**

**Consent Meeting**

**Issued on: 4/10/2026**

[26-0829](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), JOHN P. DALEY, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FILBERT'S OLD TIME ROOT BEER**

**WHEREAS**, Filbert's Old Time Root Beer, located at 3430 S. Ashland Avenue, will celebrate 100 years as a neighborhood business; and

**WHEREAS**, Filbert's Old Time Root Beer was founded in 1926 by George Filbert and his family; and

**WHEREAS**, Filbert's Old Time Root Beer originally began as a milk, ice and coal delivery business; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1926, during the prohibition, the family began brewing draught root beer; and

**WHEREAS**, George Filbert passed along the leadership of Filbert's to his son Charlie Filbert; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Filbert, a fourth generation Filbert, is currently the owner; and

**WHEREAS**, Filberts Old Time Root Beer has 30 flavors, Root Beer, Banana Cream Soda, Black Cherry, Ginger Ale, Grapefruit just to name a few; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby extend its warmest wishes and congratulations to Filbert's Old Time Root Beer on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary; 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 the Filbert family to commemorate this joyous occasion.

[26-1027](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President) and SCOTT R. BRITTON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**NATIONAL LAW DAY 2026**

**Whereas**, the Declaration of Independence states that all individuals are endowed with certain unalienable rights and chief among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

**Whereas**, the Rule of Law, as defined by the World Justice Project, refers to a system of self-government in which the government and all individuals are held accountable to a set of fair, publicized and broadly understood laws that are evenly enforced; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1931, James Truslow Adams defined the “American Dream” in Epic of America as “a dream of a social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position”; and

**WHEREAS**, for many the American Dream is the right to the opportunity to prosper - to own property, to operate a small business, to work in fair labor conditions without discrimination, to achieve economic mobility and financial independence for oneself and for one’s family; and

**WHEREAS** the American Dream of individual and national prosperity is both dependent upon and critical to political liberty and social equality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rule of Law protects fair and just rights to property, to finances, to safe working conditions and to the pursuit of citizenship; and

**Whereas**, the Rule of Law ensures that no single person or the government is above the law, and that all persons, regardless of their status, must be treated equally under the law, and that no one will be denied liberty or property without due process; and

**WHEREAS**, with the rule of law, we, the American people, can rely on our courts to enforce agreements and contracts in the marketplace for our jobs, living expenses and other necessities; and

**Whereas**, today, as the rule of law and the American Dream face significant challenges, their enduring strength and vitality are enhanced by public education and understanding our rights and responsibilities; and

**Whereas**, the theme for Law Day 2026 is “The Rule of Law and the American Dream”.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that Cook County Law Library will celebrate Law Day and the rule of law by continuing in its mission of providing access to legal research resources, educational opportunities and legal reference support for the residents of Cook County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender will celebrate Law Day by continuing in its mission to protect the fundamental rights, liberties and dignity of each person whose case has been entrusted to the Law Office Cook County Public Defender by providing the finest legal representation.

[26-1186](#)

**Sponsored by:** JOHN P. DALEY, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL “MICKEY” ALTMAN, IN  
MEMORIAM**

**WHEREAS,** Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called Michael Altman from our midst; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Altman was the beloved husband of Nora (nee Fiorella); and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Altman was the proud and loving father of Theodore and Evelyn Rose; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Altman was the beloved son of Mark and Mary Altman; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Altman was the dear brother to Marki and Sara (Thomas) McIntyre; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Altman was the treasured son-in-law to Steven “Jocko” and Linda Fiorella, and caring brother-in-law of Natalie, Andrew, Michael (Courtney), and Steven (Katie) Fiorella.

**WHEREAS,** Michael Altman was the fond uncle, cousin and friend to many; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Altman proudly served as a Chicago Firefighter for two years and was a dedicated member of Local 597 for eight years; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Altman had a passion for life and those around him. Michael found joy in Jiu-jitsu training, playing 16” softball and spending time on the golf course; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Altman’s courage and sacrifice serve as a solemn reminder of the risks undertaken daily by first responders and a debt of gratitude owed to those who serve; and

**WHEREAS,** Michael Altman touched the lives of many and will be remembered by all who knew him; and

**WHEREAS,** all who knew him will attest that Michael Altman was a kind and compassionate man, virtuous of character and gentle in spirit, admired and respected by his many friends and neighbors, and

dearly loved by his family; and

**NOW, 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 of Michael Altman 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 the same be tendered to the family of Michael Altman so that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[26-1084](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF TAYLOR ELIZABETH MASON**

**WHEREAS**, Taylor Elizabeth Mason was born on December 30, 1992, to Carla D. Watson (Ditmars) and John R. Mason, and from the very beginning of her life, Taylor embodied a spirit of resilience, grace, and profound humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, Taylor was educated at St. Ailbe, Robert A. Black Elementary School, McKinley Junior High School, Thornwood High School, and later attended South Suburban College, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to personal growth, intellectual curiosity, and self-development; and

**WHEREAS**, Taylor was christened at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Chicago, Illinois, where her faith journey was nurtured and where she actively participated in worship through Martial Arts and Liturgical Dance ministries, using movement as both a spiritual offering and a powerful form of self-expression; and

**WHEREAS**, Taylor possessed an enduring love for the arts, particularly dance, which served as a vital medium through which she communicated her joy, creativity, and inner strength, inspiring those around her with her elegance and authenticity; and

**WHEREAS**, she found immense joy in life's experiences, cherishing her travels and especially treasuring her Make-A-Wish trip to Walt Disney World, reflecting her vibrant imagination and deep appreciation for wonder, storytelling, and magic; and

**WHEREAS**, Taylor held a deep admiration for music and popular culture, drawing inspiration from artists such as Michael Jackson and Rihanna, whose messages of self-expression, empowerment, and artistry resonated deeply with her spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, she also found comfort and delight in storytelling through her love of the series *Bridgerton*, embracing its themes of romance, beauty, and emotional depth; and

**WHEREAS**, Taylor also demonstrated a passion for governance and democracy, while often advising her uncle, Bill, on how to be a better Cook County Commissioner; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout her life, Taylor demonstrated extraordinary courage and perseverance in the face of significant health challenges, including kidney failure and cancer, embodying a level of strength, dignity, and resilience that profoundly impacted all who knew her; and

**WHEREAS**, her unwavering faith remained a cornerstone of her life, providing her with strength during adversity and serving as a testament to her enduring hope, courage, and spiritual fortitude; and

**WHEREAS**, Taylor Elizabeth Mason leaves behind a legacy defined by love, resilience, creativity, and inspiration, reminding all who knew her of the power of faith, the beauty of perseverance, and the importance of embracing life with courage and grace; and

**WHEREAS**, her life serves as a beacon of light and a source of inspiration to her family, friends, and community, and her memory will continue to uplift and guide those who were blessed to know her;

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, BILL LOWRY, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF THE 3rd DISTRICT, AND TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:** do hereby honor and celebrate the life, the legacy and the lasting light of Taylor Elizabeth Mason; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Taylor Elizabeth Mason as a symbol of our respect, admiration, and heartfelt sympathy, and as a lasting tribute to her remarkable life and legacy. **Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd District.**

[26-0912](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), BILL LOWRY, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND JESSE LOUIS JACKSON, SR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners mourns the passing and celebrates the extraordinary life, indelible legacy, and tireless activism of Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., who departed this life on February 17, 2026, a towering figure in the modern civil rights movement, a passionate advocate for social justice, and one of the most influential African American leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries; and

**WHEREAS**, born on October 8, 1941, in Greenville, South Carolina, Reverend Jackson rose from humble beginnings to become an internationally respected voice for the oppressed, the disenfranchised, and the marginalized. He earned a football scholarship to the University of Illinois before transferring to North Carolina A&T State University, where he embraced activism and graduated with a degree in sociology. He later studied at the Chicago Theological Seminary and was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1968; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jackson's leadership was forged under the mentorship of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with whom he worked closely as a young aide in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He played a pivotal role in major civil rights demonstrations, including the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches, and was present in Memphis on the day Dr. King was tragically assassinated in 1968; and

**WHEREAS**, in the aftermath of Dr. King's death, Reverend Jackson founded Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) in 1971, a Chicago-based organization that championed economic empowerment, educational equity, and Black self-determination. Under his visionary leadership, Operation PUSH helped broker agreements with major corporations to expand employment opportunities and increase minority business participation; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jackson further expanded his impact through the founding of the Rainbow Coalition in 1984, a progressive and inclusive political movement that sought to unite diverse constituencies, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, LGBTQ+ communities, labor unions, environmentalists, and the poor, under a shared vision of justice, peace, and equality. The Rainbow Coalition later merged with Operation PUSH to form Rainbow/PUSH; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jackson's historic bids for the presidency of the United States in 1984 and 1988

shattered barriers and redefined American politics. In his 1988 campaign, he won over seven (7) million votes and eleven (11) primary contests, making him the most successful African American presidential candidate in history at that time. His candidacy galvanized a new generation of political engagement and laid the groundwork for future leaders of color, including President Barack Obama; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jackson was also internationally renowned for his diplomatic efforts, having traveled to Syria, Iraq, Cuba, and other global regions to negotiate the release of hostages and promote peace. His moral courage and global vision earned him admiration far beyond the borders of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his remarkable career, Reverend Jackson received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, awarded to him in 2000 by President Bill Clinton for his lifelong commitment to nonviolence, civil rights, and reconciliation; and

**WHEREAS**, despite his global reach, Reverend Jackson remained rooted in Chicago, where his activism, mentorship, and unwavering dedication shaped generations of leaders, uplifted countless communities, and transformed lives. His voice stood as a clarion call for justice, dignity, and human rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr.'s life was one of profound service, moral clarity, and bold leadership. He embodied the conviction that democracy demands participation, that faith must be lived out in action, and that change is not only possible, but inevitable when driven by courage and compassion; and

**WHEREAS**, his passing on February 17, 2026, marks the end of a transformative chapter in American history, yet his enduring legacy will continue to inspire movements for justice, equity, and peace for generations to come;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, INCLUDING BILL LOWRY, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET GAINER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, DR. KISHA E. MCCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR, AND JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, do hereby honor and commemorate the life and legacy of Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., whose lifelong commitment to justice, equality, and human dignity profoundly shaped Cook County, our nation, and the world; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Jackson family as a symbol of Cook County's deepest condolences, enduring gratitude, and unwavering respect for a man whose life was a testament to the power of conviction, the**

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necessity of compassion, and the transformative force of visionary leadership. Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd. District.

[26-1121](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK AND MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN COOK COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, the month of April is National Minority Health Month, a month-long initiative to advance health equity across the country on behalf of all racial and ethnic minorities and highlight the importance of improving their health while reducing health disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, in solidarity with National Minority Health Month, the week of April 11-17 is Black Maternal Health Week in the United States, it is a week of awareness, activism, and community building intended to deepen the national conversation about Black maternal health in the U.S.; amplify community-driven policy, research, and care solutions; center the voices of Black Mamas, women, families, and stakeholders; provide a national platform for Black-led entities and efforts on maternal health, birth and reproductive justice; and enhance community organizing on Black maternal health; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's theme for Black Maternal Health Week is "Rooted in Justice & Joy", reflecting the strength and resilience of Black-led perinatal, maternal, and reproductive health organizations that have fostered change and healing across communities. It acknowledges the enduring legacies of systemic oppression, reproductive injustices, and health inequities that continue to impact Black mothers and birthing individuals; while advocating for a liberated future grounded in restoration, justice, and joy; and

**WHEREAS**, Black women in the United States face significantly poorer maternal health outcomes, characterized by disproportionately elevated rates of mortality associated with pregnancy or childbirth. Notably, they are three to four times more susceptible to experiencing a pregnancy-related death compared to white women; and

**WHEREAS**, the race of an individual should never be a determining factor in their health outcomes, and pregnancy and childbirth should be safe for all. However, for far too many Black women, safety and equity have been tragically denied due to generations of systemic disadvantages in healthcare delivery and access, including a lack of access to healthcare information and services, a lack of insurance coverage, denial of therapeutics, limited access to contraceptive services, and cultural biases and discrimination in medical practice and medical education; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2023-2024 Illinois Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans report, the crisis of non-Hispanic Black/African American infant and maternal mortality and morbidity in states, especially Illinois, mirrors the larger trends seen across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, in Illinois, Black women were twice as likely to die from any pregnancy-related condition and three times as likely to die from pregnancy-related medical conditions as White women. Black women also had a severe maternal morbidity rate more than two times that of White women. This is more than two times the rate of non- Hispanic White women and significantly higher than Asian and Hispanic women; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the 12-month ending provisional maternal mortality rates by race ending September 2025 are as follows: Hispanic or Latina 11.1 per 100,000 live births, White non-Hispanic 13.8 per 100,000 live births, Asian non-Hispanic 12.8 per 100,000 live births and Black non-Hispanic 43.8 per 100,000 live births; and

**WHEREAS**, both societal and health system factors contribute to the high rates of poor health outcomes and maternal mortality among Black women. These women are more likely to encounter barriers to accessing quality care and frequently face racial discrimination throughout their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, public policies and medical practice should incentivize providing patient-centered care that prioritizes the individualized needs of Black women, encompassing both clinical and non-clinical social requirements. Furthermore, policies should strive to eliminate cultural biases and discrimination in medical practice and medical education, enhance provider diversity in maternity care, and hold individual providers and hospital systems accountable if they fail to deliver unbiased, high-quality, evidence-based care; and

**WHEREAS**, the origin of National Minority Health Month was the 1915 establishment of National Negro Health Week by Booker T. Washington, and in 2002, National Minority Health Month received support from the U.S. Congress with a concurrent resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, African American and Latinx communities have historically faced inadequate healthcare treatment. National Minority Health Month serves as an opportunity to intensify our efforts in improving this system by actively listening to their concerns and working towards rebuilding the trust that has been eroded over generations of subpar treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, Black and African American individuals are disproportionately susceptible to certain preventable chronic conditions, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity. Historically, Black and African American families have been deprived of accessible and dependable information regarding strategies to mitigate their risk for these diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, when patients are provided with culturally and linguistically appropriate information, they are empowered to create healthier outcomes for themselves and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this Honorable Body wishes to promote and raise awareness of National Minority Health Month and Black Maternal Health Week in Cook County and to honor the work done to improve health disparities in Cook County and Illinois;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the more than 5.2 million residents of Cook County, do hereby take this opportunity to acknowledge Black Maternal Health Week and National Minority Health Month; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conjunction with these two important commemorations, that the week of April 11-17, 2026, be declared Black Maternal Health Week and the month of April 2026 be declared Minority Health Month in the County of Cook; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.

[26-1122](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **DESIGNATING APRIL AS STI AWARENESS MONTH AND APRIL 13-19, 2026, AS STI AWARENESS WEEK IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, April is designated as National STI Awareness Month with the theme of “Forward Together: Uniting Science, Community, and Care for STI Prevention”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control designates the 2nd week in April as STI Awareness Week with the theme “Talk, Test, Treat”, an opportunity to raise awareness about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how they impact our lives; reduce STI-related stigma, fear, and discrimination; and ensure people have the tools and knowledge for prevention, testing, and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, anyone who is sexually active can get an STI, so it is important to learn more about them and how to minimize your exposure to STIs and take care of your sexual health; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, the STI epidemic continues to be widespread, and the 2024 Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Surveillance Report underscores that STIs must be a public health priority as more than 2.2 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were reported in the United States, which represents a 9% decline from 2023, down a third consecutive year, however, overall cases are 13% higher; congenital syphilis is nearly 700% higher; and

**WHEREAS**, this includes over 190,242 cases of syphilis, over 543,409 cases of gonorrhea, and 1.5 million cases of chlamydia. Importantly, the combined count includes 3,941 cases of congenital syphilis, including 110 per 100,000 live births of congenital syphilis stillbirths and neonatal/infant deaths according to provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which represents the 12th year in a row and 700% compared to a decade ago; and

**WHEREAS**, racial and ethnic minorities (Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native) and gay/bisexual men continue to be disproportionately affected by STIs, driven by systemic barriers including poverty, stigma, and lack of access to quality healthcare; and

**WHEREAS**, these disparities are attributable to unequal access to high-quality sexual health care and variations in sexual network characteristics, rather than solely variations in sexual behavior. For instance, in communities with a higher prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), individuals are more likely to encounter an infected partner during each sexual encounter. Recognizing these disparities and their underlying causes is crucial for empowering affected communities and the public health sector to address systemic inequalities in disease burden; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that STIs cost the American health care system nearly \$16 billion in health care costs alone each year; and

**WHEREAS**, without treatment, STIs can lead to serious health problems such as severe pain, pregnancy outside the uterus, infertility, loss of eyesight, birth defects, certain types of cancers, an up to 5-fold increased risk of HIV transmission and even death, but the good news is that getting tested is easy, and most STIs can be successfully treated; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois currently ranks 14th in the nation overall for STIs including 10th for chlamydia infections, 13th for gonorrhea infections, 31st for Congenital Syphilis, and 19th for primary and secondary syphilis infections; and

**WHEREAS**, public health officials stress that individuals can lower the chance of contracting STIs by limiting the number of sexual partners, getting vaccinated for vaccine preventable conditions such as HPV and Mpox virus, frequent testing and practicing safe sex;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners in conjunction with National STI Awareness Week and STI Awareness Month hereby recognizes and commemorates April 12-18, 2026, as STI Awareness Week and April 2026 as STI Awareness Month in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this body encourages individuals, organizations, and communities to actively participate in raising awareness about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how they impact our lives; how to reduce STI-related stigma, fear, and discrimination; and ensure people have the tools and knowledge for prevention, testing, and treatment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.

[26-1123](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING LA RABIDA'S CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER ON ITS 40th ANNIVERSARY  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, in recent federal fiscal year data, approximately 4 million reports were made to child protective services nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect are serious problems affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

**WHEREAS**, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

**WHEREAS**, for 40 years, the La Rabida Children's Advocacy Center in the south suburbs of Chicago has provided critical care, advocacy, and support to children and families, strengthening our communities and fostering safe, stable, and nurturing environments; and

**WHEREAS**, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in safe, stable, and nurturing environments; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, hereby

recognizes and commemorates April 2026, as Child Abuse Awareness Prevention Month in the County of Cook, and urges all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Honorable Body wishes to congratulate La Rabida Children's Advocacy Center on their 40th Anniversary and thanks them for their vital work in providing a safe environment where trauma-informed experts support children who are victims of child abuse and violent crime and their families at no cost; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be disseminated in the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy be presented to La Rabida Children's Advocacy Center as a token of our respect and esteem.

[26-1125](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE LIFE OF TRACEY ANN DANIEL ALSTON**

**WHEREAS**, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom called from our midst Tracey Ann Daniel Alston, on February 25, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, Tracey Ann Daniel Alston was born on December 4, 1961, in Gary, Indiana, to Thomas Daniel Sr. and Freddia Daniel. She shared an extraordinary and unbreakable bond with her parents, a bond rooted in love, guidance, and unwavering support. Bolstered by the love and support of her endearing grandparents. From that foundation, she developed the independence, confidence, and trailblazing spirit that would define her life; and

**WHEREAS**, from an early age, Tracey was marked by an unmistakable presence. A proud graduate of Indiana State University, she earned her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education before pursuing a second Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Columbia College in Chicago. Her dual passions for education and media became the foundation for a groundbreaking career defined by vision, courage, and impact; and

**WHEREAS**, at just 25 years old, Tracey made history as the youngest female owner of a radio station in the country when she became co-owner of WBEE Jazz Radio 1570 AM in Harvey, Illinois. What began as bold ambition evolved into a lifelong commitment to storytelling, advocacy, and elevating the voices of the African American community; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1994, Tracey became the Founder and Owner of the Danielle Ashley Group, an award-winning marketing and public relations firm named after her daughters. The agency began by developing the inaugural campaign for Cook County Board President John Stroger, Jr., then later

established its focus on community-driven marketing and public relations efforts. Through its sister companies, the Educational Network and the First Ladies Health Initiative, she created platforms that bridged education, healthcare, corporate America, and faith communities throughout the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Educational Network, co-founded with her mother, produced the nationally recognized Black History HBCU Calendar, celebrating academic excellence and preserving cultural legacy. The First Ladies Health Initiative, sponsored by Walgreens for over two decades, mobilized nearly 300 pastors' wives across Illinois, Indiana, and California to open their church doors for free health screenings and life-saving education. Through these efforts, thousands received access to preventative care, and countless lives were impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, her corporate and civic partnerships spanned some of the nation's most respected organizations, including Walgreens, ComEd, the DuSable Museum, Illinois Department of Transportation, the United States Census, Illinois Lottery, L'Oreal, Soft Sheen Carson, Gilead, Pfizer, and Bristol Myers Squibb. Tracey also lent her strategic brilliance to notable political leaders including John Stroger Sr., Mayor John H. Daley, Vice President Al Gore, Rod Blagojevich, Emil Jones and Senator Rev. James Meeks; and

**WHEREAS**, her excellence earned governmental proclamations and honors from Mayor Rahm Emanuel of Chicago, Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles, Mayor John Cranley of Cincinnati, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson of Gary, Congresswoman Robin Kelly, Congressman Danny Davis, Congresswoman Karen Bass, and Congresswoman Maxine Waters, each recognizing her service, leadership, and transformative community impact; and

**WHEREAS**, Tracey met the love of her life, Marcus Alston, in the most divine and memorable way, at a bank. Her license plate read "Tracey," and Marcus boldly called out her name to get her attention. They exchanged numbers that day and were inseparable from that moment forward. Their love story blossomed into a beautiful marriage on October 16, 1987, a union rooted in faith, loyalty, and partnership that spanned 38 extraordinary years; and

**WHEREAS**, together, Tracey and Marcus built a life anchored in love and from that union came her greatest treasures, her three daughters, whom she lovingly called her "three heartbeats": Marquise, Taylor, and Morgan Alston. As a mother, Tracey was intentional, nurturing, and fiercely protective. She poured into her daughters daily, ensuring they were educated, cultured, confident, and fully prepared to walk boldly in their purpose. Marquise, Taylor and Morgan, are proud college graduates, Marquise and Taylor of Spelman College, and Morgan of the University of Tennessee. All three stand as living reflections of her legacy - and of her unwavering belief in excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, her love multiplied when she became "Nani" to her beloved grandson, "Baby Reignn". If her daughters were her heartbeats, Reignn was her overflow. She cherished every smile, every laugh, every moment. Being a grandmother was her greatest joy and she embraced it fully; and

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**WHEREAS**, travel was one of Tracey’s greatest passions, a love instilled in her by her mother. Throughout her life, she explored the world with curiosity and gratitude. She traveled to Africa for a mission trip, journeyed to Hawaii, China, Finland, Paris, and visited countless destinations around the globe. Yet her favorite place on earth was Martha’s Vineyard. It was her happy place. She often spoke of its calming spirit and restorative beauty. Nearly every summer, she spent close to a month there, bringing together family and friends whom she lovingly called “The Peaches”. Those summers created memories that will echo for generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Tracey was deeply committed to her faith and her church home, Salem Baptist Church of Chicago, where she served faithfully as an usher. She loved being present in the house of the Lord, welcoming others with warmth and dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, she was also a dedicated member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. for nearly 17 years, serving in multiple leadership roles including President of the South Suburban Chicago Chapter and on the National Board. She was a member of The Links, Incorporated, Chicago Carats, and served on several corporate boards. In every space she entered, she carried elegance, excellence, and expectation; and

**WHEREAS**, her life was one of purpose. Her work was one of impact. Her love was one of depth. Yet beyond every accolade and achievement, Tracey’s greatest joy was her family. She did not simply build businesses, she built bridges. She did not simply host events, she created memories. She did not simply lead, she lifted; and

**WHEREAS**, she is survived by her son Bretrand (Candace LaDonne) Jones; one sister, Barbara A. Davis; two brothers, Maurice Williams and Rodney Williams; grandchildren, Michael (Natalie) Banks, Valencia M. (daughter of Dwana Roby) and Julia A. M. Jones (Daughter of Marcia Jones), great-grandsons, Nuri and Nile Banks, and Jahvi and Jah'Siah Jones; bonus grandchildren Crystiona and Alex Maiden, Tika Rayson, Ashton and Ramond Walker; and great-grandchildren, McKell Morgan, Riley Mellis, Maleenah and Legend Walker, and Prince Smith;

**WHEREAS**, Tracey leaves to cherish her memory her loving husband Marcus; her devoted daughters Marquise, Taylor, and Morgan; her cherished grandson Reignn; her son in laws Brian Allison and Aaron Cleveland; her brothers Thomas Daniel Jr. and Cullen (Davie) Daniel; sisters-in-law Cheryl (Earl Bibbs), Vanessa (Wilbert Montes), and Marcia; a host of nieces, nephews, godchildren, cousins, lifelong friends, mentees, and community partners whose lives are forever better because she walked among them; and

**WHEREAS**, though Tracey’s earthly work concluded on February 25, 2026, her legacy lives on in every life she touched, every person she empowered, every family she strengthened, every community she served, and in the generations who will walk confidently because she paved the way;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Members of the Cook County Board of

Commissioners do hereby honor the life of Tracey Ann Daniel Alston as a distinguished member of the community and exemplary servant; 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 the family of Tracey Ann Daniel Alston so that her memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[26-0901](#)

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING SHERMANN “DILLA” THOMAS**

**WHEREAS**, Shermann Thomas, affectionately known as “Dilla,” is an Emmy Award-winning modern historian, cultural worker, brand ambassador, influencer, activist, and proud lifelong resident of Chicago’s South Side; and

**WHEREAS**, through the power of storytelling and innovative use of social media, Dilla has created publicly accessible, perspective-shifting history lessons focused on the city of Chicago, garnering more than 40 million views and building a following of over 300,000 across platforms; and

**WHEREAS**, Dilla’s engaging digital presence has earned him recognition as Best Chicago Twitter Page, Best Chicago Instagram Page, and Best Chicago TikTok Page by Chicago Reader; and

**WHEREAS**, his impactful storytelling has led to national media appearances on programs including Today and The Kelly Clarkson Show, further amplifying Chicago’s cultural contributions to audiences across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Dilla was named the 2022 Chicago Tourism Ambassador of the Year by Choose Chicago in recognition of his dedication to uplifting and promoting the city; and

**WHEREAS**, his work has been enshrined in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives, affirming his national impact and service; and

**WHEREAS**, Dilla has received honors from respected institutions including the American Planning Association, City Club of Chicago, and the Chicago Public Library Foundation, including the prestigious 21st Century Award, and has been recognized as a Studs Terkel Uplifting Voices recipient; and

**WHEREAS**, he has presented lectures and history lessons to institutions of higher learning around the globe, addressed Fortune 500 companies, and partnered with professional sports teams throughout Chicago and Cook County to celebrate and elevate the region’s legacy; and

**WHEREAS**, Dilla lives by the motto that “everything dope about America comes from Chicago,” and

works tirelessly to reshape the narrative about Chicago and Cook County's value to the nation and the world; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby honors Shermann "Dilla" Thomas for his outstanding contributions to historical education, cultural advocacy, civic engagement, and the global promotion of Chicago and Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be entered into the official proceedings of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and that a suitable copy be presented to Shermann "Dilla" Thomas as a token of the Board's respect and appreciation.

[26-1074](#)

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING HERBIE HANCOCK AND CELEBRATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY 2026 IN CHICAGO**

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proclaimed International Jazz Day in 2011 to recognize jazz as a force for peace, intercultural dialogue, artistic freedom, and mutual understanding; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations General Assembly formally recognized April 30 as International Jazz Day on the United Nations official calendar (Resolution A/RES/70/20), affirming jazz as a universal language of creativity, diplomacy, and global connection; and

**WHEREAS**, International Jazz Day is observed annually on April 30, engaging communities in more than 190 countries through education, performance, cultural exchange, and international collaboration; and

**WHEREAS**, Herbie Hancock, born April 12, 1940, in Chicago, Illinois, is one of the most influential artists in modern music history and a global ambassador for culture, education, innovation, and artistic excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, a Chicago native and child prodigy, Herbie Hancock performed Mozart's Piano Concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age eleven marking the beginning of a career that would redefine jazz and contemporary music worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Hancock's groundbreaking work as a solo artist and as a member of the legendary Miles Davis Quintet, reshaped modern jazz through recordings such as ESP, Nefertiti, Sorcerer, and In a Silent Way; and

**WHEREAS**, his solo career produced iconic works including Takin' Off, Maiden Voyage, Speak Like a

Child, and Head Hunters, with Head Hunters becoming the first jazz album to achieve platinum status; and

**WHEREAS**, through compositions such as Watermelon Man, Chameleon, Rockit, and Maiden Voyage, Herbie Hancock pioneered the fusion of jazz, funk, electronic music, R&B, and popular culture, influencing generations of artists across musical genres; and

**WHEREAS**, Hancock has earned fourteen Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year for River: The Joni Letters, the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and an Academy Award for his film score for 'Round Midnight; and

**WHEREAS**, his honors include the Kennedy Center Honor, appointment as the Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard University, and international recognition for artistic and intellectual leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, Herbie Hancock serves as Chairman of the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz, the world's leading nonprofit dedicated to jazz education, mentorship, and the development of emerging artists; and

**WHEREAS**, as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue, Herbie Hancock has championed music as a tool for peace, youth empowerment, cross-cultural understanding, and global cooperation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, Herbie Hancock conceived and launched International Jazz Day as a global movement celebrating jazz as a symbol of freedom, innovation, dialogue, and shared humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, the year 2026 marks the 15th Anniversary of International Jazz Day, a milestone recognizing jazz's enduring impact on culture, education, diplomacy, and artistic expression; and

**WHEREAS**, it is especially fitting that Chicago-Herbie Hancock's birthplace and one of the world's most influential jazz cities-has been selected to host the 2026 International Jazz Day global celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, under Herbie Hancock's leadership, UNESCO and the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz will present the 2026 All-Star Global Concert at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, welcoming world-renowned artists and audiences from more than 190 nations; and

**WHEREAS**, this historic celebration honors both the legacy of jazz and Chicago's central role in shaping American music, while recognizing Herbie Hancock's extraordinary contributions to global culture, education, technology, and the arts; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby honors Herbie Hancock for his transformative contributions to music, education, cultural diplomacy, and global artistic innovation; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners proudly commemorates the 15th Anniversary of International Jazz Day 2026 in Chicago, celebrating the power of jazz to unite people across nations, generations, and cultures. This Resolution recognizes Herbie Hancock as a distinguished son of Chicago whose visionary leadership, artistic brilliance, and commitment to peace and education continue to inspire the world; and that suitable copies of this Resolution be presented to Herbie Hancock, UNESCO, the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz, and appropriate cultural and civic institutions as a symbol of the County's respect and appreciation.

[26-1138](#)

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF POLICE OFFICER JAMES F. KNAPP**

**WHEREAS**, Police Officer James F. Knapp faithfully served the residents of Cook County as a member of the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department for sixteen (16) years, demonstrating unwavering commitment to public safety and the protection of others; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 4, 2006, Officer James F. Knapp tragically lost his life in the line of duty following a traffic collision while en route to his assigned roll call at the Sheriff's Police office in Bridgeview, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Knapp served with distinction as a Field Training Officer (FTO) and HBT Operator, contributing not only to public safety operations but also to the mentorship, development, and preparedness of fellow officers; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Knapp's sacrifice was formally recognized as a Line of Duty Death, and his legacy is permanently memorialized at the Illinois Police Officers Memorial in Springfield, Illinois, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., and through the Officer Down Memorial Page; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of Officer Knapp represents not only the loss of a dedicated public servant, but also a profound sacrifice made by his family, colleagues, and the broader Cook County community; and

**WHEREAS**, it is both fitting and proper that Cook County formally recognize the service, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of Officer Knapp, ensuring that his contributions are never forgotten and that future generations understand the cost of public service; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed honorary designation of a portion of 76th Avenue, from 100th Place to 103rd Street in the Village of Bridgeview, as “Honorary Police Officer James Knapp Way” serves as a lasting tribute to his life and duty; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor the life, service, and sacrifice of Police Officer James F. Knapp, and expresses its deepest gratitude for his dedication to the people of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board supports and recognizes the honorary designation of the identified roadway in Bridgeview, Illinois, as “Honorary Police Officer James Knapp Way,” as a permanent symbol of remembrance and respect; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Officer James F. Knapp and to the Cook County Sheriff’s Office as an expression of the County’s enduring appreciation and solemn recognition of his sacrifice.

[26-1024](#)

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT OF TRACEY ALSTON**

**“I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT,  
I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE,  
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.”  
2 TIMOTHY 4:7**

**WHEREAS**, born in Gary, Indiana, she pursued higher education at Indiana State University and Columbia College Chicago, blending education, media, and storytelling to create meaningful change; and

**WHEREAS**, Tracey Alston was a visionary marketing executive, public relations strategist, and community leader whose work over more than three decades uplifted families and strengthened communities across Cook County and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, at the age of 25, Tracey made national history as the youngest female radio station owner in the United States as co-owner of WBEE Jazz Radio 1570 AM in Harvey, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, she was a loving wife to Marcus Alston, a proud mother to Marquise, Taylor, and Morgan, and a cherished grandmother to her beloved grandson, Reignn; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1994 she founded the Danielle Ashley Group, an award-winning marketing and public relations firm named in honor of her daughters, which became known for community-centered campaigns and public affairs leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, through initiatives including The Educational Network and the First Ladies Health Initiative, Tracey helped preserve Black history, promote education, and facilitate more than 600,000 health screenings in underserved communities; and

**WHEREAS**, her leadership-built partnerships with major corporations, public institutions, faith communities, and civic organizations while expanding access to healthcare and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, Tracey remained deeply devoted to her faith and service as a member of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago and through leadership roles in Jack and Jill of America, Inc., The Links, Incorporated, and other civic organizations; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor the life, leadership, and enduring legacy of Tracey Alston and express their deepest condolences to her family, friends, and the many communities she served; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Tracey Alston as a lasting tribute to her remarkable life and service.

[26-1071](#)

**Sponsored by:** JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**PROCLAIMING APRIL 30, 2026, AS “NATIONAL THERAPY ANIMAL DAY” IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS**, National Therapy Animal Day was created by Pet Partners to celebrate the exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions to bring comfort and healing to those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, Pet Partners has designated April 30 as National Therapy Animal Day; and

**WHEREAS**, Pet Partners is the national leader in demonstrating and promoting the benefits of animal assisted therapy, activities, and education; and

**WHEREAS**, there are thousands of Pet Partners therapy animal teams serving in communities across the United States, including in Cook County, and they play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

**WHEREAS**, Pet Partners therapy animal teams make millions of visits each year to hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries, and hospice care settings, assisting a diverse cross section of the community including veterans, seniors, patients, students facing literacy challenges, and those approaching end of life; and

**WHEREAS**, pet therapy is proven to have a myriad of health benefits, including improved cardiovascular health, and lowered blood pressure, irritability, and stress; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that therapy animals also benefit from their work, noting that therapy dogs displayed higher rates of endorphins and oxytocin than average family pets; and

**WHEREAS**, in celebrating National Therapy Animal Day we also recognize the dedicated human handlers, who undertake extensive training with their therapy animal partners, and who generously volunteer their time and compassion; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage more pet owners to consider becoming Pet Partners volunteers to help our community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby celebrate the extraordinary service of therapy animal teams in Cook County and throughout the country; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby proclaims April 30, 2026, as, “National Therapy Animal Day,” in Cook County, IL and encourages the citizens of Cook County to honor and celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers.

[26-1182](#)

**Sponsored by:** KEVIN B. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH - APRIL 2026**

**WHEREAS**, Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 120 years; and

**WHEREAS**, during the early 20th century, thousands of Sikh Americans contributed to the nation's growth by working on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific & Eastern Railroad; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikh Sajna Diwas (Sikh Foundation Day) marks the historic day in 1699 when Guru Gobind Singh Ji established the Khalsa at Anandpur Sahib, signifying the birth of the Khalsa Panth and inspiring Sikhs to live with courage, equality, and faith; and

**WHEREAS**, celebrated alongside Vaisakhi, this day is honored through prayers, community service, and remembrance of the Panj Pyare, reinforcing the values of unity, sacrifice, and righteousness; and

**WHEREAS**, there are an estimated 500,000 Sikhs in the United States, including more than 25,000 in the State of Illinois, and Sikhism is the world's fifth-largest religion with over 25 million followers globally; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikh Americans serve in a wide range of professions, contributing significantly to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of the United States, including service in the Armed Forces, leadership in agriculture, information technology, small business, hospitality, transportation, medicine, legal services, and other fields; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikh Americans distinguish themselves through their commitment to service, equality, and respect for all humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, it is vital to recognize and uplift local Sikh community members and organizations in Cook County, including Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan, Founder President of the Midwest Punjabi Association; Bhai Bhagat Singh Dhalwan, Mentor of the Midwest Punjabi Association; Illinois Sikh Community Center; Jasbir Kaur Maan of Swera; and Sikh Religious Society; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County remains committed to the values of religious diversity, inclusion, and mutual understanding, and stands against all forms of discrimination and violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County celebrates its rich diversity and continues to promote awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the history and contributions of Sikh Americans;

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of April 2026 to be Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month in Cook County.

[26-1181](#)

**Sponsored by:** KEVIN B. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING MARITZA CARVAJAL FOR HER DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY SAFETY WITH THE NORTHWEST CENTER AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**WHEREAS**, Maritza Carvajal serves as the Director of Community Strategy at the Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault; and

**WHEREAS**, in her role, Maritza ensures hospitals in North & Northwest Cook County are staffed with a sexual assault advocate 24/7 so that no one has to face sexual violence alone; and

**WHEREAS**, she additionally offers trauma informed training and support to nurses, law enforcement, teachers, students, and the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Maritza also leads the Center's Prevention Education program to help stop sexual harm before it even starts in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond direct crisis intervention, Maritza also delivers essential trauma-informed education to local institutions, fostering a more supportive and understanding community environment; and

**WHEREAS**, a tireless leader, Maritza not only oversees the 24/7 crisis hotline, ensuring every call related to sexual harm receives immediate attention, but she also provides crucial support to nursing staff and law enforcement, clarifying complex sexual assault laws and client rights; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2025 alone, her leadership resulted in the handling of 697 crisis calls, with 375 of those directly leading to vital hospital support for survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, her dedication to exceptional client care and unwavering staff support are cornerstones of the Center's effective community service; and

**WHEREAS**, Maritza consistently goes above and beyond, even stepping in to cover shifts during emergencies, and exemplifies unwavering advocacy for survivors of sexual violence;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize Maritza Carvajal and thank her for her extraordinary work with the Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault and her dedication to making our communities safer and connected; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable

Body, and suitable copies be tendered to Maritza Carvajal.