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The Civic Federation

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May 23, 2022

Cook County Board of Commissioners
 118 N. Clark St.
 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Cook County Commissioners:

The Civic Federation appreciates the opportunity to testify regarding item 22-2825 as substituted. The Civic Federation commends the Board and County staff for engaging Deloitte to conduct a market analysis as the basis of the proposed County elected officials' salary increases.

Although the Civic Federation supports salary increases for Cook County elected officials for the upcoming four-year terms, we do not support automatic annual salary increases in perpetuity. Instead, the Federation urges the Board to reassess the salaries of these elected officials' positions and vote on new increases after each four-year term.

The Deloitte market survey clearly indicated the need for an increase after two decades of stagnant salary levels. However, there may be a need for further adjustments in future years to reflect changes in duties and responsibilities, rather than blanket increases every year going forward.

The Civic Federation echoes the concerns and questions raised by the League of Women Voters at the May 11 Finance Committee meeting about whether the salary levels for each position is appropriate given the duties and responsibilities, and what would happen if Cook County salary levels eventually outpace the median salaries of other jurisdictions.

We thank the Board for holding a separate meeting on this item, and hope that responses to the questions submitted by the League of Women Voters will be addressed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurence Msall
 President
 Civic Federation