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COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 3:32:20 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 4:24:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:52:20
IP Address: 104.179.113.111

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Cyatharine Alias
Organization (if any): Center for Neighborhood Technology
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60602

Q2

County Board Meeting - 12/18/2025 10am

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

Q3

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

26-0019

Q4

What do you want to do?

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

Q5

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

The Center for Neighborhood Technology is submitting a public comment in support of agenda item 26-0019 – Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability, Environmental Justice Policy Framework. CNT is a nearly 50 year-old non-profit organization that provides innovative analysis and solutions, supporting community-based organizations and local governments to push for and enable just, resilient, sustainable and thriving neighborhoods.

Since early 2024, CNT has supported Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) in convening and facilitating the Environmental Justice Community Advisory Committee.

DES convened residents committed to environmental justice from throughout the County to better understand the various environmental injustices communities experience and to discuss how various County agencies' and bureaus' current actions directly impact environmental justice and what opportunities the County can grow to better serve community members. It was the first advisory committee to practice the County's new Community Compensation Policy to stipend residents for their expertise and time. Over the course of 5 meetings in 2024 and 2025, DES provided documents and plans for community engagement for community advisory committee members to provide feedback on. DES heard feedback, either accepted the feedback or provided responses to various points that did not make the draft, and looked into options to expand broader public engagement opportunities. In addition, DES ran several public meetings, focus groups, and surveys to obtain broader public feedback. During the last two meetings in 2025, DES asked CAC members for additional feedback and reviewed what was accepted in the policy framework that is presented to you today. Throughout this time, the County and CNT have logged feedback that did not fit at this stage but should be considered in the implementation phase.

CNT is excited to see the work of the Environmental Justice Community Advisory Committee, the County's Intra-Agency Internal Working Group, DES, and the general public come to fruition after an iterative process with community feedback. We look forward to seeing the policy framework develop into implementation plans once the policy framework is adopted to ensure that the County can continue to improve the way it serves and supports environmental justice communities. Thank you.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?
