



**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, September 18, 2025, 9:00 AM

Issued on: 9/12/2025

[25-3735](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROCLAMATION FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH 2025

WHEREAS, the economic vitality and sustained growth of Cook County and our ability to remain competitive in a global economy depends fundamentally upon the availability and quality of a skilled workforce and a robust, inclusive talent pipeline;

WHEREAS, rapid economic shifts and evolving labor markets place increasing demands on both individuals seeking meaningful employment and employers seeking skilled talent;

WHEREAS, Cook County remains committed to expanding access to career pathways for all residents including those historically underrepresented in the labor market ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to realize their full potential, pursue their goals, and achieve economic security;

WHEREAS, through coordinated efforts across with the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, Cook County departments, municipalities, educational institutions, community-based organizations, and employers, Cook County works to support the workforce ecosystem designed to meet residents where they are and connects them to opportunities;

WHEREAS, workforce development professionals throughout Cook County play a vital role by connecting residents with essential skills training, digital access, reentry supports, youth employment pathways, career navigation, and employment opportunities thereby strengthening neighborhoods and local economies;

WHEREAS, the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, which is charged to administer programs the public workforce system for the City of Chicago and Cook County, operates as a comprehensive network of American Job Centers, sector centers, and community partners that connect tens of thousands of residents annually to training, credentials, and employment while supporting employers with talent solutions.

WHEREAS, Cook County has prioritized and invested in the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership to implement equity-driven workforce initiatives that expand access to quality careers, including countywide hiring and connection events, paid work-based learning for young adults, sector partnerships aligned to high-demand industries, and strengthened reentry services;

WHEREAS, these combined efforts affirm Cook County's commitment to inclusive growth and shared prosperity, ensuring that every resident regardless of race, zip code, background, or circumstance can access the education, training, and support needed to succeed in a changing economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim the month of September 2025 as Workforce Development Month in Cook County, Illinois to encourage residents, employers, educators, and civic partners to join us in celebrating by supporting initiatives that strengthen Cook County's talent pipeline and advance an equitable and thriving regional economy.

[25-3632](#)

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

WHEREAS George Sakellariou came to the United States from Greece in 1969, working in factories then as a busboy in the restaurant industry. He worked his way into the kitchen and eventually cooking. He didn't hesitate when he saw an opportunity to open his first restaurant providing a lifelong example to his family and community, and

WHEREAS George's Gyros originally began as Kattoyouias at 3409 South Halsted Street in 1975 by George Sakellariou and Jimmy Tsitsopolous who worked side by side until 1987 when George Sakellariou continued running the restaurant on his own until December 1999, and

WHEREAS, George Sakellariou purchased the Horizon Restaurant down the block at 3445 South Halsted, renovated the space and opened the current George's Gyros on January 18, 1999, and

WHEREAS George's Gyros employed many neighborhood teenagers, usually their first jobs. George Sakellariou believed in teaching these teenagers the value of hard work, social skills, time management and lessons they continued to carry throughout their lives, and

WHEREAS George Sakellariou passed away on September 9th, 2013, but his legacy continues with his daughter Elaine Sakellariou and her daughters Athena, Arianna and Isis, and

WHEREAS Elaine Sakellariou, as owner of George's Gyros has cemented the establishment in the neighborhood with dedicated and loyal employees, and a fan base of residents from all over, and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, that the Board does hereby extend its congratulations to Elaine Sakellariou, her daughters Athena, Arianna and Isis, and her loyal employees for 50 years of outstanding food and service to the community, and we offer our best wishes for continued success, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a ceremonial copy of same be presented to George's Gyros as a token of appreciation from a grateful community.

[25-3669](#)

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

HONORING HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL BLASE CUPICH'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

WHEREAS on Saturday, August 16, 2025, a special Mass was celebrated at Holy Name Cathedral, and

WHEREAS among the many blessings for which the parishioners of Holy Name Cathedral offered thanks on that day is that God has blessed them and sent to them his grace through the good works and benevolence of His Eminence Cardinal Blase Cupich, and

WHEREAS His Eminence Cardinal Blase Cupich has served the Catholic Church for 50 years since being ordained on August 16, 1975, and

WHEREAS Cardinal Blase Cupich was appointed Archbishop of Chicago on September 20, 2014, by Pope Francis and installed as the ninth Archbishop of Chicago in November of 2014, and

WHEREAS Cardinal Blase Cupich was elevated to the College of Cardinals on November 19, 2016, at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City by Pope Francis, and

WHEREAS Cardinal Blase Cupich has been an advocate for the dignity of human life, protecting the most vulnerable, and advocating for social justice, and

WHEREAS the celebration of this Golden Jubilee is with deep thanks for a life devoted to tireless service and a mission to proclaim the Gospel, and

WHEREAS a celebration honoring Cardinal Blase Cupich will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at Hilton Chicago, and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby extend its congratulations to His Eminence Cardinal Blase Cupich for this special recognition, and extends its gratitude on behalf of the community for his outstanding service over the years, 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 Cardinal Blase Cupich, to commemorate this joyous occasion.

[25-3648](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING SEPTEMBER AS SPOKEN WORD MONTH AND HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF BLAQ ICE

WHEREAS, Chicago's own Blaq Ice, born De'Andre Hawthorne, is an international, award-winning spoken word poet, cultural icon, and trailblazer whose illustrious career spans more than three decades, during which he has redefined the spoken word genre by fusing poetic expression with neo-soul, jazz, hip-hop, and rhythm and blues; and

WHEREAS, Blaq Ice's visionary artistry and dedication to elevating spoken word poetry have captivated audiences across the globe, and in 2025, he achieved an unprecedented milestone by becoming the first poet in history to win both the Chicago Music Awards and the 312 Music Awards in the same year, cementing his legacy as a transformative force in the arts; and

WHEREAS, Blaq Ice is the founder of the Chicago Poet Laureate initiative and the CEO and Founder of the National Spoken Word Awards and Festival, held annually in Chicago during the Labor Day weekend, which draws artists and audiences from across the nation and affirms Cook County as a national hub for spoken word excellence; and

WHEREAS, since 2015, Blaq Ice has been a tireless advocate for the national recognition of spoken word as a distinct and vital art form, championing the establishment of **Spoken Word Month** every September, and is widely regarded as the Father of Spoken Word Month in America; and

WHEREAS, through his work with People of Extraordinary Talent (P.O.E.T.), Blaq Ice has made significant contributions to community empowerment by mentoring youth in public schools, establishing transformative spoken word programs in correctional facilities, feeding the hungry, and coordinating clothing drives for individuals experiencing homelessness-demonstrating his steadfast commitment to social justice, youth empowerment, and artistic excellence; and

WHEREAS, Blaq Ice has emphasized that while April is recognized nationally as Poetry Month, it predominantly celebrates traditional literary poetry, often excluding the performance-driven, urban-rooted art of spoken word which amplifies the voices of Black, Brown, and underrepresented poets from inner-city communities; and

WHEREAS, initiatives such as *Louder Than a Bomb* and *P.O.E.T.* have utilized spoken word poetry to engage at-risk youth in schools, transforming lives through mentorship, creative expression, and community building, offering alternatives to violence and fostering healing through storytelling; and

WHEREAS, the formal designation of **Spoken Word Month** in September will offer Cook County a platform to honor and institutionalize the cultural, educational, and societal value of spoken word, while encouraging intergenerational participation, amplifying local talent, and inspiring civic pride;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, BILL LOWRY, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF THE 3rd DISTRICT, AND TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, does hereby designate the month of September as Spoken Word Month in the County of Cook;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board acknowledges and supports the annual **National Spoken Word Awards and Festival**, held in Chicago during the month of September, and recognizes its importance in showcasing Cook County as a national leader in the arts and cultural innovation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board encourages the development of **spoken word mentorship programs** in collaboration with local schools, community centers, and youth-serving organizations, with the goal of empowering youth, preventing violence, and providing a creative platform for self-expression and personal development;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cook County shall launch a comprehensive public awareness campaign each September to promote the month's significance, highlight mentorship opportunities, and celebrate the artistic contributions of local spoken word artists, including the enduring legacy of Blaq Ice;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners formally honors **Blaq Ice** for his historic achievements, unwavering advocacy, and profound contributions to culture, education, and community advancement through the spoken word;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to De'Andre "Blaq Ice" Hawthorne as an expression of Cook County's deepest respect and appreciation for his role in shaping the cultural fabric of our communities and inspiring future generations through the power of poetry. **Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd. District.**

[25-3658](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE ILLINOIS STATE BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce (ILBCC) is a vibrant force dedicated to driving inclusivity and igniting economic growth across Illinois; and

WHEREAS, over the past two decades, ILBCC has shattered barriers, unlocked access, and fiercely championed Black-owned businesses, setting a standard that other organizations struggle to match; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber's mission is to foster economic growth and reduce disparities by enhancing the competitive capacity of small businesses by partnering with government agencies and the private sector to create sustainable opportunities for African Americans, women, and minority-owned enterprises; and

WHEREAS, ILBCC is dedicated to championing over 100,000 Black-owned businesses across various sectors, driving their success and advancing economic equality; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber's vision is to cultivate a thriving ecosystem of sustainable, high-growth Black-owned businesses in Illinois that are empowered to compete effectively in local, state, federal, and commercial markets; and

WHEREAS, ILBCC envisions a transformative future where Black entrepreneurs spearhead innovation, propel economic growth, and forge generational wealth, paving the way for a more equitable and prosperous Illinois for everyone; and

WHEREAS, this milestone year underscores the Chamber's relentless dedication to championing advocacy, access, and advancement for Black businesses. By facilitating timely invoice payments, connecting entrepreneurs with influential decision-makers, and amplifying their voices, the ILBCC has transformed the paths of numerous entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, the ILBCC will be convening their 20th Annual Business Conference, taking place September 9-11, 2025 at the Wind Creek Chicago Southland in East Hazel Crest, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners are pleased to honor the good work of the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce and thank them for their service to the community;

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

Commissioners proudly honor the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of their 20th anniversary and for their outstanding service to the community, Cook County, and our State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy be presented to the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[25-3656](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER and JOSINA MORITA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COOK COUNTY GOLD STAR MOTHER'S AND FAMILY DAY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the last Sunday in September, was designated as "Gold Star Mother's Day" by the United States Congress on June 23, 1936; and

WHEREAS, after the passage of this joint congressional resolution, President Barack Obama, in 2011 made the amendment to include Gold Star Family Members on this day; and

WHEREAS, a gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires individuals throughout the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States; and

WHEREAS, no words expressed can fill the void in the hearts of each of our nation's Gold Star families, but we must never fail to recognize all that these families have given for our nation. We will honor our fundamental duty to remember the lives of our fallen warriors and uphold our sacred obligation to stand by their surviving families; and

WHEREAS, the County of Cook having the largest veteran population in this state with over 148,000 veterans acknowledges the imperative obligation to remember and honor our Gold Star families; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize September 28, 2025 as Gold Star Mother's and Family Day to honor and remember the sacrifices made by the families and members of the Armed Forces who

made the ultimate sacrifice to defend freedom and protect the United States.

[25-3657](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER and JOSINA MORITA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COOK COUNTY NATIONAL POW/MIA DAY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in each of America's past wars, our Prisoners of War have represented a special sacrifice. An added burden of loneliness, trauma and hardship has fallen on them. Their burden becomes double where there is inhumane treatment by the enemy in violation of common human compassion, ethical standards and international obligation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed a resolution authorizing the first National POW/MIA Recognition Day be observed on July 18, 1979 and later moved the event to be observed on the third Friday in September; and

WHEREAS, throughout our history, when the enemies of freedom were on the march and our country needed brave Americans to take up arms and stop their advance, the members of our Armed Forces answered the call of duty. These patriotic men and women defended our country in hours of need and continue to stand watch for freedom. Many of these courageous individuals risked capture, imprisonment and their lives to protect our homeland. On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor the sacrifices and remarkable determination of those captured as prisoners of war. Our nation will not forget these heroes, and will not stop searching for our service members who are missing in action; and

WHEREAS, in the County of Cook, we are committed to remembering all veterans who served their country and those presently serving their nation in all corners of the globe and those still missing in action and prisoners of war and remind everyone of the personal sacrifices made by all war veterans to ensure that future generations of Americans will be able to enjoy our country's freedoms; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize September 19, 2025 as National POW/MIA Day and ask that on this day of honor, that all residents join our nation in this day of remembrance to demonstrate the country's continued commitment to the POW/MIA issue and recognize the unwavering commitment to bring our heroes home.

[25-3660](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, FRANK J. AGUILAR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING BLOOD CANCER AND SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the month of September is National Blood Cancer and Sickle Cell Awareness Month, a month-long initiative designated by Congress to help focus attention on the need for research and treatment of blood cancer and sickle cell diseases; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease (SCD) is the most common inherited blood disorder in the United States in which red blood cells may become sickle-shaped and harden. For a baby to be born with sickle cell disease, both parents must carry a sickle cell trait or genes. Sickle cell disease is not contagious, and there is no universal cure; and

WHEREAS, about 1 in 13 African Americans carry the sickle cell trait, and many do not know they have it, and an estimated 100,000 people in the U.S. have SCD, with approximately 2,000 babies born with SCD annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, people of many ethnic backgrounds can have SCD, but it disproportionately affects Black and Brown Americans, with more than 90% non-Hispanic Black or African American, and an estimated 3%-9% are Hispanic or Latino. suffering from SCD; and

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell disease leads to complications including chronic severe and unpredictable pain, anemia, frequent infections, swelling in extremities, fatigue, delayed growth and is one of the underlying medical conditions that causes increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, defined as hospitalization, admission to the ICU, intubation or mechanical ventilation, or death; and

WHEREAS, this national focus is essential and reinforces the National Institutes of Health (NIH) continued support of SCD research, education, and capacity building, including the “Cure Sickle Cell Initiative” to accelerate safe, effective, and scalable gene therapies to cure the disease; and

WHEREAS, because of the many advances and medical breakthroughs in genetic therapies and research, we are now closer to finding a cure for all SCD patients in fact a new genetic treatment that was shown in clinical trials to cure 88% of people of the hallmark symptoms of sickle cell disease, has started to be used outside the clinical trial setting; and

WHEREAS, the FDA approved new gene therapies in December of 2023. Previously, the only options

for people with sickle cell were treatments to manage symptoms or donor stem cell transplants that carry serious risks; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2025, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has selected 35 participants for its new, voluntary Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model including the State of Illinois, whereby the federal government has negotiated “outcomes-based agreements” with cell and gene therapy manufacturers for state Medicaid agencies to deliver cutting-edge treatments for people on Medicaid living with sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, a recent international trial introduced another curative option for sickle cell disease; The therapy, haploidentical bone marrow transplant with thiotepa and posttransplant cyclophosphamide, is as safe and more affordable than the FDA-approved myeloablative gene therapy and gene editing treatments; and

WHEREAS, results from the 10-year trial, published June 20th, 2024, in the American Society of Hematology journal Blood, show a two-year overall survival rate of 94.1% with no difference between children and adults; and

WHEREAS, individuals can still help be part of the solution by donating blood, which is still one of the most valuable treatments for sickle cell patients, but less than 10% of Americans donate blood. Additionally, sickle cell patients benefit most from blood transfusions from people of the same race or similar ethnicity, but only 5% of blood donors are of African ancestry; and

WHEREAS, education and research, educating others about sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait, and getting tested for sickle cell trait if you are of African descent and do not know your status are other ways to contribute to this important cause; and

WHEREAS, blood cancers include leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and Hodgkin's disease are one of the world's most prevalent and dangerous cancers, and every 3 minutes, someone in the U.S. is diagnosed with a blood cancer; more than 1.3 million Americans are living with or in remission from a blood cancer; and

WHEREAS, blood cancers are the 3rd leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S., but many people don't know the impact of the blood cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma, and despite progress, more than 1/3 of blood cancer patients still do not survive five years after diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, giving blood is also important for blood cancer patients, although blood transfusions do not treat the blood cancer itself, they do provide healthy blood cells if your body isn't producing its own, which can help relieve symptoms and side effects; and

WHEREAS, additionally for patients diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma and other life-threatening diseases, a bone marrow or cord blood transplant may be their best or only hope for a cure. However,

70% of patients who need a transplant do not have a fully matched donor in their family, which is why it's important to encourage people to sign up to be a potential donor; and

WHEREAS, the disparities faced by blood cancer patients are very similar to the disparities faced in general in the United States with minority groups disproportionately impacted across different blood cancer diseases, including having a higher incident rate. For example, Black Americans have at least double the incidence of myeloma compared to any other race or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, among people under the age of 20, Hispanics have the highest rate of leukemias of all ethnicities and in children, by more than 20%; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body wishes to promote and raise awareness of Blood Cancer and Sickle Cell Diseases in Cook County and encourage everyone to be a part of this national effort to increase awareness about blood cancer and sickle cell diseases during the month of September and stand united to improve the health of those living with them;

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 Blood Cancer and Sickle Cell Awareness Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conjunction with National Blood Cancer and Sickle Cell Awareness Month, that the month of September 2025 be hereby declared Blood Cancer and Sickle Cell Awareness Month in the County of Cook; and

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

[25-3530](#)

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

RESOLUTION HONORING ESTELLE J. LONG FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE, COURAGE, AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Cook County is proud to recognize individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary resilience, dedication, and service to their communities, and who serve as shining examples of civic responsibility, perseverance, and generational impact; and

WHEREAS, Estelle J. Long, a centenarian, born on August 13, 1920, in Evanston, Illinois, emerged from a family rooted in discipline, education, patriotism, and artistry-values that would shape her into a

courageous trailblazer in every chapter of her life; and

WHEREAS, as a young student, Mrs. Long stood with integrity and grace in the face of systemic injustice, using her talents and voice to advocate for dignity and equal treatment for her peers, making her an early champion for civil rights and equity; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, she contributed to the national defense effort by applying her skills in vital war industries, exemplifying the legacy of “Rosie the Riveter,” and breaking barriers in roles traditionally closed to African American women; and

WHEREAS, alongside her beloved husband, a decorated Army Drill Sergeant, Estelle Long built a nurturing home in Chicago’s Chatham neighborhood, where she and her husband raised five accomplished children, several of whom would go on to serve their nation and city in both military and public service capacities; and

WHEREAS, over the course of a distinguished 40-year career in city government, Estelle Long rose above the challenges of racial discrimination and institutional barriers to become a highly respected accountant in the Comptroller’s Office all while pursuing and achieving both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in public administration from Roosevelt University; and

WHEREAS, even after retirement, Estelle Long remains a beacon of leadership, faith, and compassion-actively serving her church, mentoring youth, supporting community safety efforts, and advocating for the well-being of seniors and underserved residents in the Black community; and

WHEREAS, her legacy extends through the generations with a family that includes children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who continue to build on the foundation she laid through love, discipline, and service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, do hereby recognize and honor **Estelle J. Long** for her outstanding contributions to the City of Chicago, the African American community, and the greater Cook County region, and we extend our sincere gratitude for her lifelong commitment to equity, justice, and community empowerment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Estelle J. Long as a symbol of our deepest respect and admiration.

[25-3795](#)

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

IN LOVING MEMORY OF BARBARA JEAN DAVIS

WHEREAS, Barbara Jean Davis, who was born on March 24, 1963, in Chicago, Illinois, to the union of the late Laverne Jacob Davis and Eugene Ulysses Davis; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Jean Davis was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Kevin Shawn Davis and Paul Jacob Davis, and her beloved soulmate of 25 years, Melvin Lee Graham, with whom she shared four children; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Jean Davis was a loving sister to her brothers Eugene (Charisse), Carl, Harrison (Rashonda), Kevin (preceded in death), and Paul (preceded in death), and shared a lifelong bond with her God-sisters Valzetta Qualls and Tracey Washington; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Jean Davis was the only daughter among six siblings, a devoted mother of five children-Erika Fletcher, Chantanae Graham, Laverne Graham, Dominique Graham, and Antwon Graham-and a proud grandmother of eight beautiful grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, at an early age, Barbara Jean Davis accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and was baptized at Salem Lutheran Church, where she began her spiritual journey; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Jean Davis received her education in the Chicago Public School system, attending Guggenheim Elementary School and graduating from Calumet High School; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Jean Davis, life was enriched by her many friendships, her love for music, dancing, laughter, and her presence at Washington Park with cherished companions. She had a heart to give, a spirit of joy, and always sought to make others happy; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Jean Davis, journey on earth was faithfully supported by her daughter Dominique Graham, who lovingly stood by her side from beginning to end, and by her brother Eugene Davis, who shared in her final days.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of Barbara Jean Davis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Proclamation be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to the family of Barbara Jean Davis.

[25-3792](#)

Sponsored by: STANLEY MOORE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners believes in the joyful, transformative power of the human-canine bond and the importance of inclusivity for all residents; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, approximately 70 million adults live with a disability, yet there are only about 16,000 service dogs from accredited training programs nationwide, highlighting a growing need for support; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Canine Companions pioneered the concept of service dogs for individuals with physical disabilities, creating a new form of essential support and independence; and

WHEREAS, Canine Companions, a nonprofit organization, enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing expertly trained service dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships, all free of charge; and

WHEREAS, Canine Companions and their service dogs empower individuals with disabilities to live with greater independence through best-in-class training, follow-up services, and a deeply committed community of support; and

WHEREAS, National Service Dog Month is an opportunity to educate our community about the benefits of service dogs and the laws that protect their handlers; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board continue to work towards becoming an inclusive community in which all citizens, and their trained service dogs, are embraced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby celebrate, and support the life-changing work of service dogs and their handlers 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 September as, "National Service Dog Month" in Cook County, Illinois.

[25-3531](#)

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

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LANGSTON BRITTON

WHEREAS, Langston Britton was born on April 27, 2011, and during his 14 years on earth brought joy, light, and love to all who knew him, before his heavenly transition on July 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Langston's family was the foundation of his joy and values. He was the beloved son of Sherrard and Martha Britton, cherished brother of Quincy Britton, adored grandson, nephew, godson, godbrother, cousin, and friend to a wide circle of loved ones, and a tender companion to the family's treasured pets, Samantha, Jedi (in spirit), and Bailey (in spirit); and

WHEREAS, Langston was a proud student of the Valley View School District, having attended Kenneth L. Hermansen Elementary School and A. Vito Martinez Middle School in Romeoville, Illinois, and was preparing to enter Romeoville High School in the 2025-2026 academic year, where he had already earned placement in honors courses due to his strong academic promise; and

WHEREAS, Langston was a young man of deep faith and leadership, active in the student ministry at Community Christian Church in Plainfield, where he was not only a participant but a leader-reading and interpreting scripture, answering questions, and encouraging others in their walk with Christ; and

WHEREAS, Langston exemplified kindness, strength, and integrity in his daily life. Whether it was defending classmates from bullying or offering friendship to those in need, he consistently led by example, uplifting those around him with his compassion, humility, and generous heart; and

WHEREAS, Langston was a gifted athlete with a passion for basketball, football, wrestling, and Tae Kwon Do. His competitive spirit was matched by his sportsmanship, which helped forge deep friendships and build communication and teamwork among his peers; and

WHEREAS, those closest to Langston remember him not only for his intelligence and athleticism, but for his humility, laughter, empathy, and radiant soul. He was a protector to the vulnerable, a beacon for his peers, and a joy to his teachers and family; and

WHEREAS, many have shared how Langston's courage, faith, and friendship changed their lives-standing up for the bullied, inspiring others to lead, and reminding all who knew him that even a short life can leave an extraordinary legacy; and

WHEREAS, in the words of his uncle Alex, “Langston was the total opposite of what the media often portrays. He was amazing, and his legacy will supersede the 14 years he gave Earth-everybody’s going to know his name.” And in the words of his Aunt Samara, “Some souls shine so brightly that their light lingers long after they’re gone-it becomes the compass we never knew we needed.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby honor and celebrate the life of **Langston Britton**-a young man who embodied love, leadership, and light. Though his time on Earth was far too brief, his impact is everlasting. May his memory forever be a blessing and a beacon for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to the family of **Langston Britton** as a symbol of our shared mourning, our unshakable gratitude, and our enduring commitment to remember Langston's life and carry forward his spirit.

[25-3804](#)

Sponsored by: MICHAEL SCOTT JR., Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING DION’S CHICAGO DREAM FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH EQUITY, LOGISTICS-DRIVEN FOOD ACCESS, AND JOB CREATION IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, September is recognized as Social Food Justice Month, a time to elevate and honor the work of organizations and leaders advancing equitable access to nutritious food, dismantling systemic barriers, and affirming dignity in food systems; and

WHEREAS, **WHEREAS**, Dion’s Chicago Dream (“DCD”), founded by Englewood native and U.S. Navy veteran Dion Dawson in 2020, is a nonprofit social enterprise that combats food insecurity through a logistics-first model delivering fresh produce directly to households across Chicagoland, centering quality, dignity, and consistency in service; and DCD’s flagship Dream Deliveries program provides five days’ worth of fresh fruits and vegetables straight to residents’ doorsteps, immediately improving household food security; and

WHEREAS, DCD’s innovative “last-mile” approach has been profiled and recognized regionally and nationally for reimagining the traditional, queue-based food distribution model, replacing lines and limited hours with direct-to-door delivery and dignified access, and integrating with health and Food-Is-Medicine partners to support prevention and better outcomes; and

WHEREAS, DCD has scaled from an early community fridge to a county-wide engine for health equity, with program components including Dream Deliveries (direct home delivery) and the Dream Vault-an Amazon-style locker that allows recipients to retrieve a full produce box using a unique code, extending

access and reach of last-mile logistics; and

WHEREAS, The Dream Vault earned one of the region's highest honors for innovation-the 2023 Chicago Innovation Award-and has been highlighted by civic and community institutions for modernizing food access infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The organization's measurable impact includes millions of pounds of fresh produce delivered across the Chicago region since 2020 (with more than 5.1 million pounds publicly documented by mid-2025) and sustained service coverage across more than half of Cook County ZIP codes (180+), evidence of county-scale logistics capacity that meets households where they are; and

WHEREAS, DCD's model creates local jobs alongside nutrition access-living-wage roles for drivers, packers, dispatch, and operations-and has been held up by workforce and impact investors as an example of social enterprise delivering both economic mobility and health equity in historically under-resourced neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, In national recognition of its nutrition-forward, activity-supportive community impact, Dion's Chicago Dream was selected as a 2024 President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition Community Leadership Awardee, joining a select group of U.S. organizations honored for advancing community well-being through fitness and nutrition programming; and

WHEREAS, Chief Dreamer Dion Dawson has been recognized as a TED Fellow, Echoing Green Fellow, Aspen Food Leaders Fellow, and by the Rockefeller Foundation, reflecting national and global acknowledgment of Chicago-born innovation that blends logistics, data, and resident-informed design to transform food access; and he has been tapped by leading institutions for thought leadership and systems change; and

WHEREAS, DCD's mission and methods align with Cook County's priorities around health equity, preventative care, and economic opportunity, demonstrating how modern logistics, direct-to-consumer delivery, and smart access points can reduce barriers to healthy food, support chronic disease prevention, and put dignity and agency back into the hands of residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby commends Dion's Chicago Dream for its pioneering leadership in last-mile, direct-to-door produce delivery, its innovation in access infrastructure (including the Dream Vault), its job creation and local wealth-building, and its demonstrable contribution to health equity across Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, during **Social Food Justice Month**, the Board recognizes DCD's multi-million-pound distribution since 2020, its sustained service to over half of Cook County ZIP codes, and its role as a trailblazer in the Food-Is-Medicine movement-setting a standard for consistency, accountability, and dignity in public-interest logistics; and that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Dion Dawson, Founder & Chief Dreamer, and the Dream Team of Dion's Chicago Dream in recognition of their continued service to Cook County residents.

