



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

Virtual Meeting

Consent Agenda

Thursday, February 25, 2021, 10:00 AM

Third Set

[21-1869](#)

Sponsored by: BRIDGET GAINER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES

WHEREAS, Lincoln Park Community Services (“LPCS”) first opened its doors to those experiencing homelessness on February 12, 1985; and,

WHEREAS, LPCS brings communities together to empower individuals facing homelessness and poverty to secure stable housing and make sustainable life changes; and,

WHEREAS, LPCS is a true community-based organization and has always operated by the pool of more than 1,700 volunteers each year; and,

WHEREAS, for the first time, LPCS is a multi-site organization offering the full continuum of housing services; and,

WHEREAS, through its core values of empathy, equity, integrity, and accountability LPCS strives to address the issue of homelessness in the community; and,

WHEREAS, LPCS has been instrumental in providing care to those suffering from homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic through free breakfasts and expanded services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and residents of Cook County celebrate the 36th anniversary of Lincoln Park Community Services.

[21-1870](#)

Sponsored by: BRIDGET GAINER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEVON BANK

WHEREAS, Devon Bank was first acquired by Mason A. Loundy in 1953 and was intended to support the community; and,

WHEREAS, Richard Loundy succeeded Mason Loundy and recently completed 50 years of service in the banking community and currently serves as Chairman Emeritus to Devon Bank; and,

WHEREAS, today Devon Bank is in its third generation of ownership under David Loundy, CEO & Chairman of the Board of Directors; and,

WHEREAS, Devon Bank now has three full-service branches in the Chicagoland area, two loan offices in Bridgeview and Orland Park, and presence in Texas, California, Minnesota, Nevada, and Washington; and,

WHEREAS, through the years, Devon Bank has managed to grow through several economic downturns and crises, while remaining a champion for community causes; and,

WHEREAS, Devon Bank is a full-service financial institution and its services include checking, savings and CD accounts; and,

WHEREAS, additionally, Devon Bank is one of few banks in the nation to provide religious financial products; and,

WHEREAS, Devon Bank boasts a staff of approximately 125 employees that collectively speak 28 languages; and,

WHEREAS, Devon Bank resides in one of the country's most diverse neighborhoods, with over 50% of the bank's staff being immigrants and serving a diverse customer base.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and residents of Cook County celebrate the 75th anniversary of Devon Bank.

[21-1864](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE 2021 IHSA STATE SPEECH CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITORS FROM THE SOUTH SUBURBS ON THEIR SUCCESS

WHEREAS, the IHSA State Speech Championship took place February 19-20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year's event was held on a virtual platform; and

WHEREAS, the competition includes overall team sweepstakes and the following individual event categories: Dramatic Duet Acting, Dramatic Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Duet Acting, Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, Oratorical Declamation, Original Comedy, Original Oratory, Performance in the Round, Poetry Reading, Prose Reading, Radio Speaking, and Special Occasion Speaking; and

WHEREAS, the 1st year of the State Series, which includes regionals, sectionals, and the state finals was held in 1941, and this year's 2021 competition comprised 167 schools throughout Illinois; and

WHEREAS, two Cook County south suburban high schools finished in the top ten in the Team Sweepstakes including: Homewood-Flossmoor High School (5th Place) and Southland College Prep Charter School (7th Place); and

WHEREAS, south suburban Cook County high school participants made a particularly strong showing in the individual events with two 1st Place winners: Adeera Harris and Star Hollis of Homewood-Flossmoor in the Dramatic Duet Acting category and Bri'yon Watts of Southland College Prep in the Dramatic Interpretation category; and

WHEREAS, several other strong individual event results were achieved including: Marcus Bobbitt of Marion Catholic (3rd Place) the Informative Speaking, Adeera Harris of Homewood-Flossmoor (4th Place) in Dramatic Interpretation, Starr Hollis of Homewood-Flossmoor (3rd Place) in Prose Reading, Nia Smith of Homewood-Flossmoor (4th Place) in Oratorical Declamation, Abimbola Adekoya of Marion Catholic (4th Place) in Special Occasion Speaking; and

WHEREAS, other top six finishers from the south suburbs include: Antoine Stokes of Thornton High School (5th Place) in Original Comedy, Alondra Camacho of Oak Lawn High School (5th Place) in Original Oratory, Vicky Olaleye of Homewood-Flossmoor (5th Place) in Poetry Reading, Nyah Ware of Southland College Prep (5th Place) in Special Occasion Speaking and Abimbola Adekoya and Caleb Braziel of Marion Catholic (5th Place) in Dramatic Duet Acting; and

WHEREAS, the students worked hard throughout the year to prepare for this year's championships in a difficult time for all amidst the pandemic, but overcame these challenges to excel at a high level; and

WHEREAS, their excellent results are a testament to the hard work of students and faculty and the parents who supported them; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body wishes to congratulate the success of these outstanding south suburban cook county students;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners congratulates all the south suburban students who competed in the 2021 IHSA State Speech Championships; 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 south suburban high schools placing in this year's competition as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[21-1876](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**A RESOLUTION HONORING DISTRICT U-46's BROTHERS RISE UP and LEAD PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities across 90 square miles within Chicago's northwest suburbs, including Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne and portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The Living Elegantly, Ambitiously, and Dauntlessly (LEAD) Enrichment Program is centered around supporting and mentoring 5th through 8th grade girls of African American heritage. The LEAD program aims to help girls develop their self-esteem, cultural awareness, leadership, and conflict resolution skills; and

WHEREAS, The Brothers Rise Up (BRU) program provides mentoring and support to third through 8th grade African American male students across School District U-46. This is a multi-year program that focuses on monitoring and improving the students' academic performance, attendance, and behavior and offers a curriculum with character development, social skills, leadership, academic excellence and career development; and

WHEREAS, in 2019-20, the LEAD program served 150 girls across eight schools; three elementary and five middle schools; and

WHEREAS, the LEAD program is led by Jocelyn Ashford Yarbrough and a group of LEAD volunteers/staff members currently facilitate the program; and

WHEREAS, Jim Cook, a Dean's Assistant at Kenyon Woods Middle School, founded Brothers Rise Up in 2019 as a program of the non-profit Midwest Sports Academy. Mr. Cook worked with administrators across the District to identify students who might need and be open to additional support; and

WHEREAS, in 2020-21, the BRU program is serving 130 boys from 3rd-8th grade in 17 schools on a weekly basis while also continuing to provide mentoring and support to students who have moved on to high school; and

WHEREAS, these programs participate in a variety of programming including college visits, visits to local businesses, community service work, and hearing from corporate leaders; and

WHEREAS, U-46 leaders plan to expand both programs to empower Black students, particularly those struggling in school, in light of a national awakening about racial injustice and Black Lives Matter protests stemming from police brutality; and

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stemming from police brutality; and

WHEREAS, District officials also are creating a new African American student leadership group for U-46's five high schools and Dream Academy. Its purpose is giving Black students a voice, valuing their experiences and perspectives, and advocating for Black history, culture and civil rights struggles being taught more widely; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of these programs is in part in response to a community forum hosted by Black student leaders last fall reflecting on equity and race; and

WHEREAS, these programs are vital for providing space and resources for Black students in our community and schools; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor School District U-46, the Brothers Rise Up Program, the LEAD Program, Jim Cook, and Jocelyn Ashford Yarbrough; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution are presented to School District U-46, the BRU Program, the LEAD Program, Jim Cook, and Jocelyn Ashford Yarbrough.