

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 07, 2024 5:32:24 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 5:55:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:13
IP Address: 96.65.74.1

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Christina Ferraro
Organization (if any):	Prospect Heights Park District
City/Town:	Prospect Heights
State:	IL
ZIP:	60070

Q2

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.

**Cook County Legislation and Intergovernmental
Relations Committee Meeting 3/12/2024 1110a**

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

24-1233

Q4

What do you want to do?

**REGISTER IN OPPOSITION to 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

On behalf of the Prospect Heights Park District Board of Commissioners, I am requesting an exemption to mirror the state exemption for the county paid leave ordinance. I am concerned that this will have a big impact on the Park District. Prospect Heights is a nonhome rule municipality so we have no way to opt out. We believe the financial impacts to the Prospect Heights Park District are estimated to be \$78,000 - \$250,000 for part time and seasonal employees (maintenance, parks, grounds, office, guards, instructors, etc.). This financial impact is significant to a small park district with a total operating budget of \$6million. We have been discussing ways to potentially pay for this as our operating budget is very lean and some possibilities are to increase program fees which may make programs cost prohibitive and then be canceled due to lack of registration or decreasing the number of staff we have for lifeguards, summer camp, preschool program, etc. or cut the hours of operation both of which affect the quality of the programs. We also need to include the pay for the substitute employees when the others are on "paid leave", so business is not interrupted. Prospect Heights Park District operates 14 parks (with playgrounds, courts, and fields, etc.), a recreation center (with swimming pool, fitness center, etc.) an 18-hole golf course, several buses, etc. As you can imagine the upkeep is costly and constant for capital improvements in addition to operations. Each dollar the District "saves" goes to fund capital improvements. Not being prepared for this mandate will create a financial hardship. Thank you for your consideration.

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

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).

Email Address

cferraro@phparks.org

Phone Number

847.394.2848

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?

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:17:57 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:45:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:27:54
IP Address: 174.62.250.154

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Dan Schimmel
Organization (if any):	Berkeley Park District
City/Town:	Berkeley
State:	IL
ZIP:	60005-2309

Q2

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.

**Cook County Legislation and Intergovernmental
Relations Committee Meeting 3/12/2024 1110a**

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

24-1233

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

Dear Commissioners,

As a professional in park districts for over 40 years I feel that an amendment to the paid leave act is in order. Park districts should be exempt from paying for paid leave for part time, temporary staff. Particularly, seasonal employees...no matter which season. Mandating this additional expense presents an undue financial burden on residents and program participants. The reality is that it will be close to impossible to expand staff enough to even allow staff time off before the season ends. In essence, they won't be getting paid time off, they'll just be getting cash. That seems to work against the intent of the ordinance. Therefore, I am in favor of the amendment.

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?

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:02:40 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:04:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:47
IP Address: 50.202.163.218

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Tony LaFrener
Organization (if any): Schaumburg Park District
City/Town: Schaumburg
State: IL
ZIP: 60193

Q2

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.

**Cook County Legislation and Intergovernmental
Relations Committee Meeting 3/12/2024 1110a**

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

24-1233 ver. 1

Q4

What do you want to do?

**PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION
ONLY (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

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

As representatives of the Schaumburg Park District, we reiterate our strong support for the amendment to exempt Park Districts from the Cook County Paid Leave Act. Our concerns, detailed previously, remain critically relevant. A summarized reiteration follows:

Financial Impact: The Act imposes substantial financial burdens beyond our budgetary capacity, risking operational sustainability.

Service Reductions: Compliance challenges could necessitate cuts to services like pools and day camps due to difficulties in securing seasonal staff.

Administrative Burden: The Act adds complex administrative requirements, detracting from our focus on community service.

Youth Employment: Park Districts serve as vital first employers, teaching invaluable life skills. The Act threatens this essential role by complicating seasonal hiring.

Seasonal Staffing Challenges: The additional obligations exacerbate existing difficulties in filling seasonal positions, essential for community-valued services.

We advocate for an exemption to preserve our ability to deliver high-quality, accessible recreational services without the financial and operational strains imposed by the Act. Such support is crucial for the sustainability of community services and the well-being of our residents.

We urge you to support for the amendment to exempt Park Districts from the Cook County Paid Leave Act.

We appreciate your consideration of this pressing matter and are available for further discussion or clarification.

Warm regards,

Tony LaFrener, Executive Director

Rob Ward, Director of Operations

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?

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:19:47 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:23:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:53
IP Address: 198.17.111.145

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Chris Leiner
Organization (if any): Northbrook Park District
City/Town: Northbrook
State: IL
ZIP: 60062

Q2

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.

**Cook County Legislation and Intergovernmental
Relations Committee Meeting 3/12/2024 1110a**

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

24-1233

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share my voice as the Executive Director of the Northbrook Park District. I am writing in support of amending Ordinance 23-553 File# 24-1233, commonly known as the paid leave act. If this act remains unchanged, it will negatively impact the Northbrook Park District's ability to provide services to our community.

While some groups have framed Cook County Park District's request to amend the paid leave act as an assault on the rights of hard-working adults in Cook County, this couldn't be farther from the truth. The Northbrook Park District, on average each year, provides 36 fully paid days off to full-time staff, including those within our bargaining unit positions. The District also provides paid time off to year-round part-time staff.

Where the ordinance falls short of supporting the District's operation is when seasonal staff are factored in. The Northbrook Park District employs nearly 600 seasonal staff who, on average, work between 250-350 hours each summer. These are high school and college students, many of whom are in their first jobs as camp counselors and lifeguards. These individuals typically are not supporting families and are working during school breaks.

Districts are already challenged to operate our camps and facilities during holidays, local music festivals, and periods of excessive heat. We must achieve this in an economic climate where even the slightest cost increase can cause participants to be excluded. By passing this ordinance in its current form, the Cook County Board has effectively passed a fee increase for services on to Northbrook residents. This act will now make providing services more difficult, not easier.

This unfunded mandate blindsided the District, and we are not prepared financially or organizationally to provide and manage this benefit time. I respectfully request that you consider a two-way dialogue to find common ground that achieves the goals of the Paid Leave Act without unduly burdening local governments.

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?

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 9:27:31 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:24:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:56:42
IP Address: 50.216.39.154

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Michelle Tuft
Organization (if any):	Skokie Park District
City/Town:	Skokie
State:	IL
ZIP:	60077

Q2

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.

**Cook County Legislation and Intergovernmental
Relations Committee Meeting 3/12/2024 1110a**

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

24-1233

Q4

What do you want to do?

**PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION
ONLY (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

My name is Michelle Tuft, and I am the Executive Director of the Skokie Park District. I would like to express support for a compromise of the Paid Leave For All Workers Act as it is currently proposed.

The first compromise is changing the effective date to January 2025 which will allow park districts to prepare for the new law and budget for the increased salaries.

The second compromise is to increase the number of days that an employee must work before the leave benefits become available from 90 days to 120 days. This will help the district manage the leave of seasonal employees who are primarily college and high school students who work over the summer as lifeguards, day camp counselors, and cashiers. As the act is currently written, most of these seasonal employees become eligible to take their leave after 90 days, at the end of the summer, which is when park districts struggle to keep the pools open, and camps staffed. Safety in our programs is imperative and the timing couldn't be worse. Park districts depend on these seasonal staff and rehire these young adults for as many summers as possible. Retaining these staff over multiple summers allows them to mature and improves the quality of our camp programs and pool operations. If these employees come back over multiple summers, which is extremely common, the 120 days in a year would likely occur at the beginning of the summer when they return to the district. This would allow the staff to take time off throughout the summer and will help tremendously with the end of summer staffing shortage issues.

I believe the intent of the act is to provide much needed time off for part-time staff, especially those workers who are employed year-round and are supporting their families through their employment. Changing the wait period to 120 days will not negatively impact these workers and will not negatively impact the end of season operations of the district.

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?

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:57:30 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:47:38 AM
Time Spent: 01:50:07
IP Address: 70.89.217.193

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Benjamin Rea
Organization (if any):	Palatine Park District
City/Town:	Palatine
State:	IL
ZIP:	60067

Q2

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.

**Cook County Legislation and Intergovernmental
Relations Committee Meeting 3/12/2024 1110a**

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

24-1233

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 Palatine Park District is in support of the proposed amendment to exempt Park Districts from the requirements of the Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance. The burden to our park district, as explained in our written testimony in January is estimated to be hundreds of thousands of dollars that were not budgeted, resulting in a potential decrease in services if we are unable to hire other team members for facilities like our pools and for programs like day camps. We are already struggling to find part-time staff and the paid leave ordinance would further complicate hirings.

Please consider passing the proposed amendment to the Paid Leave Ordinance.

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

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).

Email Address	brea@ahpd.org
Phone Number	847-496-6236

Q8

No

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?

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:40:19 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:58:49 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:29
IP Address: 50.171.144.161

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Kevin Romejko
Organization (if any):	Rolling Meadows Park District
City/Town:	Rolling Meadows
State:	IL
ZIP:	60008

Q2

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.

**Cook County Legislation and Intergovernmental
Relations Committee Meeting 3/12/2024 1110a**

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

24-1233

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

My name is Kevin Romejko and I am the Executive Director of the Rolling Meadows Park District, a unit of local government within Cook County. I'm writing in favor of the proposed Paid Leave Ordinance Amendment (24-1233).

As I imagine you are aware, park districts have been exempted by the Paid Leave for All Workers Act by the state of Illinois (Act 820 ILCS 192). However, unfortunately, park districts were not similarly exempted by the Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance. I am writing today respectfully requesting the County Board enact Amendment 24-1233 to its Paid Leave Ordinance to exempt park districts; thus, matching the state's Act.

Park districts are a vital and essential part of each and every community within Cook County. The added expense this unfunded mandate would create for our park district in Rolling Meadows, and park districts across Cook County, would mount to hundreds of thousands of dollars, which we will then need to offset with increased user fees in areas like outdoor pools, swim lessons, fitness memberships, preschool, and childcare.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, park districts were there for the residents of Cook County, your constituents. We provided safe, outdoor activities, continued to maintain our playgrounds, ballfields and open spaces; opened our doors to those families needing a safe environment for e-Learning; and provided opportunities for virtual recreation to those unable to leave their homes.

The requirement of paid time off for all workers, though exemplary in its concept, does not fit well for park districts that employ the greatest majority of our part-time staff during the summer.

Many of these employees are high school and college teenagers often working their first job to gain experience for their future careers. As part-time employees they are not the major household income provider, and we allow tremendous flexibility for time off per their requests. The majority of these seasonal staff will quite simply accrue the time and then receive extra pay when they leave, nullifying the intent of your ordinance.

On behalf of park districts across Cook County, I respectfully ask you please understand the special circumstances of park districts and the good we provide to our communities and enact Amendment 24-1233 excluding park districts from the Paid Leave Ordinance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Romejko, Executive Director
Rolling Meadows Park District

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?
