



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
Cook County Building, Board Room, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois

New Items Agenda

for the

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 11:00 AM

16-3137

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTING APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

WHEREAS, a vacancy will exist in the office of the Chief Medical Examiner on June 6, 2016, due to the resignation of the incumbent County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Stephen J. Cina on June 5, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Illinois State Statute, 410 ILCS 535/18, requires that a Chief Medical Examiner complete and sign a death certificate for certain deaths; and

WHEREAS, County Ordinances require that the Chief Medical Examiner must be a physician license by the State of Illinois to practice medicine in all its branches and must hold a certificate from the American Board of Pathology in both Forensic Pathology and Anatomic Pathology; and

WHEREAS, due to the vacancy that will occur on June 6, 2016, the County Board of Commissioners should appoint an Interim Chief Medical Examiner; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ponni Arunkumar is currently employed as the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner at the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, is licensed to practice medicine in all its branches and holds certificates from the American Board of Pathology in both Forensic Pathology and Anatomic Pathology.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Board of Commissioners of Cook County do appoint Dr. Ponni Arunkumar as Interim Chief Medical Examiner effective June 6, 2016 until a permanent Chief Medical Examiner can be approved by the Board and is available to assume the duties of this office.

16-3142

Sponsored by: PETER N. SILVESTRI, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PETITIONING THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO CHANGE THE OFFICE OF COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK FROM ELECTED TO APPOINTED

WHEREAS, under the Illinois Constitution, the Clerk of the Circuit Court is part of the judicial branch of state government; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Cook County Circuit Court Clerk is funded solely by the taxpayers of the County of Cook; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk of the Court is the official record keeper of all judicial matters in the court system; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Circuit Court Clerk is a ministerial, administrative position, whose functions involve applying procedures prescribed by law and does not involve discretionary policy making; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Circuit Court Clerk, unlike any other similar position in the state, is an integral part of the largest consolidated court system in the United States, and as such should be accountable to the judiciary; and

WHEREAS, under Article VI, Section 18, the Illinois Constitution allows the state supreme court and appellate court judges to appoint, rather than elect, a court clerk and other non-judicial officers of the circuit courts; and

WHEREAS, an appointed Circuit Court Clerk would allow for a consolidation of functions that overlap with those of other county offices and would help make a complex office more user-friendly; and

WHEREAS, electronic tools, such as the Imaging and Document Management System, electronic ticketing, and e-Filing, are helping to streamline the office and show promise to do so further; and

WHEREAS, opportunities for significant cost savings to tax payers include reducing the top-heavy structure of the elected office, reducing duplication of services, and achieving economies of scale; and

WHEREAS, the administration of judicial record keeping should be free from political influences and concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby petition the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor to revise the position of Cook County Circuit Clerk from elected at large throughout Cook County to a position appointed as an administrator by the judiciary with the advice and consent of the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners, beginning at the end of the upcoming term on December 1, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cook County Clerk notifies the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor of this request for action.