



RECOMMENDED 2018 COOK COUNTY FORWARD AGENDA

LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

*A desperate need for an ethics ordinance or amendment to exist ordinances that curtail nepotism and financially beholden special interest governance among the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Cook County Forest District Board of Commissioners, and executive departments for both local county government units;

*An ordinance or amendment to existing ordinances where budget cuts begin with top heavy non-essential administrative staff and end with boots-in-the-trenches staff and that consolidate certain administrative staff whose duties duplicate that available to serve the county at large (e.g., a budget/financial director for the Sheriff's Department vs. a budget director/finance director available through the Cook County Board President's Office;

*Proactive cooperation by such civic action organizations as CUFAC with the Cook County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners and Chicago City Council's Black Caucus to achieve an intergovernmental partnership, as opposed to a predatory contact, between the Forest Preserve District and the city's of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

*An ordinance or amendment to existing ordinances that automatically provides for "[circuit riding]" on hearings for issues of broad, wide-sweeping interest in Cook County in

the manner that already exists for public review and input on county and Forest Preserve District executive budget recommendations;

*A faster method of breaking down vote totals for multiple write-in candidates on the PDF version of the unofficial and certified results

*An ordinance or amendment to existing ordinances that provides for follow-up Q&A beyond general public testimony with expert witnesses/speakers by select registered speakers that could enrich the examination of burning county issues, such as affordable and safe drinking water in struggling communities of color.

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FINANCE

*A thumbnail version of the annual county and Forest Preserve District budgets targeted for a 12th-grade reading level (your constituents we've informally polled prefer a 3rd-grade reading level) that would be no more than 5-10 pages and provides an non-convoluted idea of where revenues come and go;

* Establishing review of the annual budget and expenditures by a volunteer advisory deliberate assembly that is not constituted by, of, and for the county;

*Examining potentially cost-effective alternatives public service casualties in the budget, such as using drawing volunteer bilingual interpreters for the Public Defender's Office from local non-profit agencies, and making optional revenue sources mandatory, such as the "exoneration fee" discussed during the FY2018 executive budget hearings.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Creating more cost effective and economical non-bid opportunities for non-profit organization/agencies to do business with Cook County government and the Forest Preserves;

*Advising and encouraging, perhaps in cooperation with the Human Relations Committee, regulation of street performers and visual street artists in the city Chicago and Cook County suburbs that allow them to make a reasonable living, especially those at or below the poverty line.

HUMAN RELATIONS

* Including opportunities with groundwater/well water in the discussion of affordable and safe drinking water in struggling and black communities of the county and also examining how other communities of color are impacted by the issue;

*Mandated reform in the Cook County Assessor's Office that encourages realistically getting it right the first time on property tax assessments;

*Expanding the county's war on harassment to target ALL harassment, including bullying and sexual harassment of men and perhaps the LGBT.

COOK COUNTY BOARD/COOK COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT BOARD

*Creating a culture in Cook County government at-large reflecting Patrick Henry's vision of the Constitution as an instrument for the people to restrain government, as opposed to a document for government to restrain the people;

*Working harder at creating a culture in Cook County government at-large reflecting the fundamental principles clause (Sec. 23, Art. I) of the Illinois Bill of Rights in the 1970 Illinois Constitution.