



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

**Cook County Building, Board Room,  
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**Consent Agenda**

**Thursday, January 15, 2026, 11:00 AM**

**Consent Meeting - Issued on: 1/9/2026**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Pursuant to Cook County Code, the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners hereby transmits Consent Calendar Resolutions for your consideration. The Consent Calendar Resolutions shall be published in the Post Board Action Agenda and Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Clerk of the Board.

[26-0616](#)

**Sponsored by:** 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, 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****CELEBRATING THE 195TH ANNIVERSARY OF COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Cook County was founded by an act of the Illinois legislature on January 15, 1831; and

**WHEREAS**, originally part of the commonwealth of Virginia, the area which comprises modern day Cook County was also part of the Northwest Territory and then a part of 10 separate counties as the territory was formed into states, including Illinois. The 10 counties are Knox (1790), St. Clair (1801), Madison (1812), Edwards (1814), Crawford (1816), Clark (1819), Pike (1819), Fulton (1823), Peoria (1825), Putnam (1826); and

**WHEREAS**, when formed in 1831, Cook County's original boundaries included all of McHenry, Lake, DuPage and parts of Kane and Will. The other counties were separately created between 1836 and 1839, leading to Cook County's current boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County was named for Daniel Pope Cook (1794 - October 16, 1827). Originally from Kentucky, Cook moved to Illinois and became a lawyer, newspaper publisher, politician and one of the early advocates of statehood for Illinois. An anti-slavery advocate, he was the state's first Attorney General, and then congressman. It is believed Cook never visited the area which would be named in his honor; and

**WHEREAS**, the first Cook County Board of Commissioners was elected on March 7, 1831, taking office and holding their first meeting the following day. Three (3) commissioners-Gholson Kercheval, Samuel Miller and James Walker-convened a meeting at Fort Dearborn on the Chicago Settlement lakeshore, in the magazine (powder room). The first County Board meeting would last for two (2) days; and

**WHEREAS**, also elected on March 7 were Sheriff James Kinsey and Coroner John K. Clark. County Clerk William See, County Treasurer Archibald Clybourn, were appointed March 8 and Jedediah Wooley, Jr was recommended as County Surveyor to the Governor and Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the first acts of the new board was approval of a Resolution asking Illinois for 10 acres of land including the corner of Clark and Randolph for the location of a new County Courthouse. This building would be completed in 1835 and included a small stockade which served as the first County Jail and later added an Almshouse which was the forerunner of the County Hospital, Since the land was granted to the County, the corner of Clark and Randolph Streets in Chicago has been the headquarters of Cook County Government; and

**WHEREAS**, the official population of Cook County at the time of its founding was 100 (a count of settlers, not including Native Americans forcibly removed from the local area). The Chicago settlement (Chicago was not incorporated as a town until 1833) had 50 to 60 residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County would become a leader in growing the region, the state and the nation; blazing trails in the fields of transportation, food processing, public health, education, juvenile justice, art and music. The dynamic and diverse county population would swell the county population to 350,000 in 1870, over 1.1 million 20 years later and 1.8 million at the turn of the 20th Century. By 1910, Cook County had 2.4 million residents, surpassing three million residents by 1920. By 1950, Cook County grew to four million residents. In 1960, Cook County population totaled 5.1 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the history of Cook County Government contributed directly to the development of the region and the State of Illinois, with many projects and initiatives of several County departments directly impacting the economic and political direction of the region for years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, the Cook County Board of Commissioners determined that, in celebration of the County's bicentennial anniversary, a new flag would be created to be representative of the bountiful geography, history, culture and diversity of Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, the new Cook County Flag, which was approved and adopted on June 16, 2022, symbolically represents many of these initiatives including: the provision of health services to all as an essential County mission and the creation over time of institutions to fulfill that mission including John H. Stroger, Jr., Provident and Oak Forest Hospitals; the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, the Ambulatory Care Network and the Cook County Department of Public Health; the protection of individual rights and voting rights through County ordinances and the conduct of free and fair elections for the entire jurisdiction of Cook County; the protection and preservation of the environment including natural lands and open spaces primarily through the establishment of the Forest Preserves in 1914; the establishment of the world's first juvenile court system, which separated children from adults with an emphasis on individualized treatment instead of rigid adherence to due process, and probation over incarceration, and; the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation with all local governments as partners for progress through the work of county offices and agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, as Cook County approaches its 200th anniversary-and having developed a unique and extensive collection of public documents and records that contain historical significance-establishing an initiative to archive historically significant documents and records is imperative to County Government history; and

**WHEREAS**, fundamental to capturing the history of Cook County is a thorough and complete documentation of the history of Cook County Government; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners created a County Historic Archives and Records Office (CARO) to affirmatively coordinate efforts across all departments and with all officials to determine the historical value of various county documents and records and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding access and promotion of the County's history; and

**WHEREAS**, looking forward to Cook County's Bicentennial in 2031, and building upon the previous years' work, CARO seeks to establish a Cook County Archives Center to continue to manage, promote, document, and preserve said materials, activate its collections; and to engage exploratory initiatives to establish sustainable external fiscal support through the development of a foundation to support the ongoing growth of CARO.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the members of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County does hereby celebrate the 195th anniversary of the founding of Cook County, Illinois; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President and the members of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County are contributing to the preservation of Cook County Government; and encourages all County agencies under all elected and appointed officials to work closely with the Manager of Archives and the Cook County Historic Archives and Records Office (CARO) to preserve the history of their offices, to include all formats of physical and electronic documents, photographs, maps, films, other media and artifacts towards that purpose.

[26-0378](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RESOLUTION HONORING NICK SHIELDS FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Nick Shields has served the Office of the Cook County Board President with distinction for the past seven years, most recently as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, and has been an invaluable asset to Cook County government; and

**WHEREAS**, an award-winning communications professional with nearly two decades of experience, Nick built, strengthened, and elevated the communications division of Cook County, recruiting and developing a talented team within the President's Office while unifying communications professionals across Offices Under the President (OUP) so that Cook County spoke with clarity, cohesion, and one strong voice; and

**WHEREAS**, Nick possesses an exceptional ability to communicate at the intersection of policy and politics, masterfully overseeing Cook County's strategic and crisis communications efforts, ensuring transparency, trust, and accessibility for the residents we serve; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure, Nick led communications for some of Cook County's most significant American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) initiatives, including the transformative Cook County Guaranteed Income Pilot and the groundbreaking Medical Debt Relief Initiative, both of which have garnered national attention for their innovation and impact; and

**WHEREAS**, Nick is the creator of Project Rainbow-Cook County's Emmy-award-winning initiative designed to inform, inspire, and empower young learners. Under his leadership, Project Rainbow has expanded its reach and influence with the Provident Scholarship Fund, which has awarded more than \$4 million to aspiring medical students, and Project Rainbow has established a partnership with Google to provide certificate opportunities for adult learners, carrying forward a legacy of education and equity; and

**WHEREAS**, Nick's leadership has extended beyond county borders, playing an instrumental role in establishing and strengthening Cook County's foundational relationship with the White House under the Biden administration-ensuring Cook County's priorities, values, and residents were represented at the highest levels of government; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his career, Nick has exemplified professionalism and excellence, previously serving as Communications Director for Cook County Clerk David Orr, overseeing communications for Navy Pier, Inc., and working as a journalist for the *Los Angeles Times* and *Baltimore Sun* after graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and

**WHEREAS**, Nick also served as a producer and reporter for *Chicago Tonight*, where he earned a local Emmy-early evidence of the talent, creativity, and dedication he would later bring to Cook County government; and

**WHEREAS**, his presence and leadership will be greatly missed, he leaves behind a strong foundation and a lasting legacy as he embarks on his next chapter at Cook County Health; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is profoundly grateful for Nick's tireless work, steadfast commitment, and unwavering service. His integrity, innovation, and leadership have strengthened our government and improved the lives of countless people.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor and recognize **Nick Shields** for his outstanding service, visionary leadership, and lasting contributions to Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy be presented to Nick Shields as a token of our gratitude and deep appreciation.

[26-0452](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), STANLEY MOORE and ALMA E. ANAYA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF LASHON R. DEFELL, ESQ. FOR HER EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS,** Ms. LaShon R. DeFell, Esq. has served Cook County for 24½ years in multiple capacities, beginning her career as a Pharmacy Technician and Chief Union Steward at Provident Hospital from 1993-2007, later returning to serve as Senior Labor Counsel and ultimately rising to Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer/Director of Labor Relations; and

**WHEREAS,** Ms. DeFell earned her Bachelor of Arts in Labor Relations from the National Labor College, a Master of Public Administration in Labor Studies from the University of Baltimore, and a Juris Doctor with a Health Law Certificate from DePaul University College of Law, collectively forming the academic foundation that underpinned her distinguished labor-relations career; and

**WHEREAS,** throughout her tenure, Ms. DeFell distinguished herself through her dual mastery of strategy and execution in managing high-stakes labor negotiations, serving as both Chief Labor Strategist and Chief Labor Spokesperson for Cook County; and

**WHEREAS,** she led the County through numerous crisis negotiations, organizational transitions, and collective-bargaining cycles, securing bipartisan support for labor agreements in 2017 and in subsequent years, all while advancing the County's mission of public service, fiscal responsibility, and operational stability; and

**WHEREAS,** Ms. DeFell assumed leadership of Cook County Health's labor relations in 2019, guiding labor strategy for one of the nation's largest public health systems (and the second largest public health system in Illinois) guiding critical labor strategy during the unprecedented operational and workforce challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** Ms. DeFell brought a rare blend of legal expertise, strategic insight, and lived experience, including her prior certification and work as an NFL Contract Advisor, enhancing her reputation as a principled negotiator, and further advanced the County by developing her *LRD360°* leadership framework, emphasizing loyalty, respect, and dignity, which has influenced leaders, colleagues, and labor partners across the County and beyond; and

**WHEREAS,** her commitment to public service has left an enduring impact on Cook County government, shaping its labor-relations philosophy, strengthening collaborative structures, and fostering a more stable, equitable, and respectful environment that benefits both the County's 18,000 unionized employees and its 5.2 million residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners wishes to express its profound gratitude for Ms. DeFell's decades of service, leadership, and integrity, and to honor the lasting legacy she leaves within the County and the broader labor-relations community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor and celebrate La'Shon R. DeFell for her extraordinary service and extend their best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Ms. DeFell as a token of appreciation for her exemplary contributions to Cook County and her enduring commitment to public service.

[26-0549](#)

**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**

**KATE FIEDLER, IN MEMORIAM**

**WHEREAS** Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called Kate Fiedler from our midst, and

**WHEREAS** Kate Fiedler was the beloved wife of Bob, and

**WHEREAS** Kate Fiedler was the loving mother of Annie (George) Mangan and Maggie (Kevin) O'Dwyer, and

**WHEREAS** Kate Fiedler was the cherished and proud nana of Joey, Bobby, Georgie and Michael, and

**WHEREAS** Kate Fiedler was the devoted daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Therese Cernok, and

**WHEREAS** Kate Fiedler was the dear sister of the late Joseph (Helen) Cernok, and

**WHEREAS** Kate Fiedler was the fond sister-in-law, aunt and friend of many, and

**WHEREAS** Kate Fiedler was a proud and dedicated employee of Calvetti Meats, and

**WHEREAS** all who knew her will attest that Kate Fiedler was a kind and compassionate woman, virtuous of character and gentle in spirit, admired and respected by her many friends and neighbors, and dearly loved by her family, now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby extend its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of Kate Fiedler and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss, 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 the family of Kate Fiedler that her memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[26-0548](#)

**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**

**PATRICIA DUBROCK, IN MEMORIAM**

**WHEREAS** Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called Patricia DuBrock from our midst, and

**WHEREAS** Patricia DuBrock was the beloved wife of the late Mel DuBrock, and

**WHEREAS** Patricia DuBrock was the loving mother of Colleen (Michael) Mancari, Karen (the late Gary Sr.) Arthurs, Daniel (Karen) DuBrock and John (Donna) DuBrock, and

**WHEREAS** Patricia DuBrock was the cherished and loving Grammy of Michael Jr., Nicholas, Daniel (fiancé Meghan), the late Gary Jr., Sara (John), Christopher (Faith), Denis and Trevor, and

**WHEREAS** Patricia DuBrock was the devoted daughter of the late John and the late Kathleen Shannon, and

**WHEREAS** Patricia DuBrock was the dear sister of Sharon (William) Parrilli and Maureen (David) Bocian, and

**WHEREAS** Patricia DuBrock was the fond sister-in-law, aunt and friend of many, and

**WHEREAS** all who knew her will attest that Patricia DuBrock was a kind and compassionate woman, virtuous of character and gentle in spirit, admired and respected by her many friends and neighbors, and dearly loved by her family, now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby extend its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of Patricia DuBrock



and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss, 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 the family of Patricia DuBrock that her memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

.

[26-0612](#)

**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**

**WILLIAM J. NOLAN, IN MEMORIAM**

WHEREAS Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called William J. Nolan from our midst, and

WHEREAS William J. Nolan was the loving husband of the late Lynn, nee Phelan, and

WHEREAS William J. Nolan was the devoted father of William CFD (Kaitlyn), Kerry (Rich) Baudo, Amy Nolan Hill, Kate (Frank) Mullaghy, Mike (Kelly), and Dan CFD (Jen), and

WHEREAS William J. Nolan was the proud “Pop Pop” of Nolan, late Leighton, Quinn, Avery, Addison, Parker, Ryann, Logan, Alaina, Kieran, Faelynn, Emma, Graeme, and Stella, and

WHEREAS William J. Nolan was the dear brother of Mary Kay (late Bob) Pullen, Carol (Bill) Smith, and Jack (Margaret) Nolan, and

WHEREAS William J. Nolan was the beloved brother-in-law, uncle, and friend of many, and

WHEREAS William J. Nolan was a retired Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner with the Chicago Fire Department, and

WHEREAS William J. Nolan was a longtime member of the Hamburg Athletic Association, and

WHEREAS all who knew him will attest that William J. Nolan was a kind and compassionate man, virtuous of character and gentle in spirit, admired and respected by his many friends and neighbors, and dearly loved by his family, now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby offer its

deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of William J. Nolan, and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of same be tendered to the family of William J. Nolan that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

.

[26-0457](#)

**Sponsored by:** DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVELL A. HOLDEN III**

**WHEREAS**, Davell Antoine Holden, III was born on March 21, 2009, and departed this life on August 2, 2025, leaving behind a profound legacy of love, discipline, and promise at the age of sixteen; and

**WHEREAS**, Davell was a cherished son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, and friend whose life exemplified humility, integrity, and compassion, and whose presence deeply impacted all who had the privilege of knowing him; and

**WHEREAS**, Davell was a distinguished scholar-athlete at Thornwood High School, where he earned academic honors and demonstrated exceptional character both in the classroom and on the basketball court, embodying the values of perseverance, teamwork, and leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, Davell's commitment to basketball extended beyond competition, serving as a vehicle for discipline, personal growth, and community connection, earning the respect of teammates, coaches, and peers alike; and

**WHEREAS**, Davell was widely recognized for his quiet strength, kind spirit, and unwavering loyalty, often leading not through words but through consistent action, integrity, and example; and

**WHEREAS**, Davell's life, though far too brief, continues to inspire countless young people to pursue excellence, remain grounded in purpose, and uplift others through kindness and resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners acknowledges the immeasurable loss suffered by Davell's family, loved ones, school community, and the greater Cook County community, and honors a life that continues to speak through legacy rather than length of years;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby commemorate the life and legacy of **Davell Antoine Holden, III**, honoring his academic achievement, athletic excellence, character, and enduring impact; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be entered into the official archives of Cook

County as a permanent testament to Davell's life and the legacy he leaves behind; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Holden family as a symbol of the County's deepest condolences, respect, and commitment to remembering Davell's life forever.

[26-0576](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2026 AS CERVICAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress designated January as Cervical Health Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women globally with an estimated 660,000 new cases and 350,000 deaths in 2022, according to the World Health Organization (WHO); and

**WHEREAS**, the American Cancer Society's estimates for cervical cancer in the United States for 2025 are approximately 13,360 new cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed and about 4,320 women will die as a result of this diagnosis, but the disease is preventable with vaccination and appropriate screening such as Pap and HPV tests; and

**WHEREAS**, like many diseases, racial disparities are troubling for cervical cancer, where the death rate is 65% higher in Black women than in White women, even though both groups self-report similar screening efforts, accordingly in Illinois, cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates are highest in Black and Latina women and lowest in White women; and

**WHEREAS**, human papillomavirus (HPV) is the leading cause of cervical cancer at over 90%; however, HPV vaccines can help prevent infection from both high-risk HPV types that can lead to cervical cancer and low risk types that cause genital warts; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC recommends all boys and girls get the HPV vaccine at age 11 or 12, but vaccination is available through age 26; and

**WHEREAS**, young women and men can get the vaccine up to age 26, but for those 15 and older, a full three-dose series is needed; and

**WHEREAS**, women of color are disproportionately affected by cervical cancer with Black and Latina women nearly three times more likely to die of cervical cancer than white women in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health, Cook County has the highest incidence and mortality rates for cervical cancer in Illinois. The age-adjusted incidence rate for cervical cancer in Cook County in 2023 was 7.2 cases per 100,000 people; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing women's health holistically by helping women establish medical homes with the goal of eliminating inequities in prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship for all women is paramount; and

**WHEREAS**, this Honorable Body wishes to promote and raise awareness of National Cervical Health Awareness Month in Cook County to combat this "silent killer" of women;

**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 National Cervical Health Awareness Month; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conjunction with National Cervical Health Awareness Month, that the month of January 2026 be hereby declared Cervical Health 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.

[26-0575](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING JANUARY 23rd, 2026, AS MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, New Jersey became the first state to recognize January 23rd as Maternal Health Awareness Day through the work of the New Jersey Section of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG), Tara Hansen Foundation, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and other vital organizations that work to help spread awareness and stop maternal mortality; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme for this year's Maternal Health Awareness Day is "Holding Ground on Maternal Health" reaffirming our staunch commitment to preventing maternal deaths and advancing respectful,

evidence-based care; and

**WHEREAS**, maternal care access is becoming increasingly challenging, with more than one-third (35.1%) of U.S. counties considered maternity care deserts (areas without a single birthing facility or obstetric clinician), according to a 2024 March of Dimes report; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 2.3 million women aged 15-44 live in counties considered maternity care deserts, with no access to obstetric care, birth centers, ob-gyns or certified perinatal practitioners; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the 12-month ending provisional maternal mortality rates by race ending March 2025 are as follows: Hispanic or Latina 11.1 per 100,000 live births, White non-Hispanic 15.2, Asian non-Hispanic 15.3 and Black non-Hispanic 47.4; and

**WHEREAS**, these results are unacceptable and occur irrespective of income or education levels. A person's race should never determine their health outcomes, and pregnancy and childbirth should be safe for all; and

**WHEREAS**, as the wealthiest nation in the world, the U.S. should also be the safest place in the world to be pregnant and give birth; however, we are consistently among the least safe, with rates of maternal mortality and serious injury continuing to grow at an alarming rate; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, cardiovascular conditions such as pulmonary embolisms, uncontrolled bleeding and problems emanating from hypertension are the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. and most, over 80% are preventable and nearly half of maternal deaths occur between seven and 365 days postpartum, not during delivery itself; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, more than 50,000 individuals in the United States suffer from a "near miss" or severe maternal morbidity, which includes potentially life-threatening complications that arise from labor and childbirth; and

**WHEREAS**, it is vitally important for us to improve maternal morbidity and mortality rates and the health disparities that contribute to adverse pregnancy outcomes, and raising awareness about this crisis is important to make maternal health the national priority it should be; and

**WHEREAS**, community-based maternal health care models, including, doula support services, midwifery childbirth services, community and perinatal health worker services, and group prenatal care, in collaboration with culturally competent physician care, show great promise in improving maternal health outcomes and reducing disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, advocacy and community-based organizations, and others have used January 23rd as a day to raise awareness about maternal health, educate health care providers about maternal mortality, and encourage birthing people, families and providers to recognize and discuss potential signs of an emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, this Honorable Body wishes to promote and raise awareness of Maternal Health Awareness Day in Cook County by raising public awareness about maternal mortality, maternal morbidity, and disparities in maternal health outcomes;

**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 National Maternal Health Awareness Day; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conjunction with National Maternal Health Awareness Day, that January 23rd, 2026, be hereby declared Maternal Health Awareness Day in the County of Cook; and

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

[26-0577](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING MR. DAVID KELLY AS A TRAILBLAZING HISTORY MAKER IN THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION**

**WHEREAS**, David Kelly was born May 7, 1938, in Chicago, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1960, after 3 and one-half years of college, David received his bachelor's degree in business from Roosevelt University, and in 1962, David became the 76th African American to pass the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examination and become a Certified Public Accountant and the first in his family; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1960, David married Sandra McKendrick Kelly and they have four children; and

**WHEREAS**, over sixty years later, the Kelly-Williams Family has six CPAs across three generations. It is believed that the family has more CPAs than any other African American family in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, for seven years, David was an Internal Revenue agent in Chicago and, as an instructor, he was responsible for that office hiring the first black female Internal Revenue agent; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1967, David earned his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University School of Law (Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit National Honor Society) and joined the tax department of the Chicago office of Arthur Andersen & Co., the world's largest CPA partnership; and

**WHEREAS**, with his admission as a partner in 1976, he became the first African American to come up

through the ranks and be admitted as a partner in any of the then Big Eight accounting firms; and

**WHEREAS**, David's client responsibilities included consulting with and representing publicly traded companies and providing expert witness testimony and business valuation services; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1992, David joined NiSource, a Fortune 500 utility company, where during his 11-year career, he held positions including Corporate Tax Counsel, Vice President, CFO and President of a subsidiary group that included the Indianapolis Water Company; and

**WHEREAS**, at the water company, David served as a change agent, facilitating the transition of upper management from a predominantly white and male workforce to a diverse team comprising six African American and female executives, including six of the top 11 positions. And

**WHEREAS**, one of David's lifelong goals included helping others advance their careers, and his motto was "Never Tell Yourself No."; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his career, David had a history of civic and professional involvement, including, but not limited to the following: Energy Insurance Mutual - Board of Directors, Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee - Board of Directors, WC Resources Corporation - Board of Directors, Seaway Bank & Trust Company - Board of Directors, Talladega College - Board of Trustees, Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute - Chairman of the Board, Porter County Community Foundation - Board of Directors, Martin University -Finance Committee Chairman, International School of Indiana - Board of Directors, American Pianist Association - Board of Directors, Chicago Economic Development Corporation - Chairman of the Board, John Howard Association (Illinois prison reform) - Chairman of the Board, Children Home & Aid Society of Illinois - Board of Directors & Secretary, Economic Club of Chicago, State of Indiana - Governor's Council Sagamore of the Wabash; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of Mr. Kelly's family who became CPAs with illustrious careers of their own include his daughter Michele Kelly Ellzey, his nephew Paul Kelly, his cousins Cathy R. Williams. Louis B. Williams and Alexandra Williams; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kelly-Williams family has carried on the legacy of Mr. David Kelly in their profession and giving back to their communities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby commends and honors Mr. David Kelly for his remarkable trailblazing career and outstanding contributions to the community and his profession; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. David Kelly as a token of our respect and esteem.

[26-0539](#)

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**RESOLUTION HONORING DEPUTY CHIEF DION T. TROTTER FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Chief Dion T. Trotter has devoted his life and career to public service, leadership, and the protection of residents and vulnerable populations throughout Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Chief Trotter honorably served his country in the United States Navy and continued his commitment to public service by joining the Cook County Sheriff's Office in 1997 as a Deputy Sheriff assigned to the Court Services Division at Juvenile Court; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2000, he became a State-Certified Juvenile Officer, further strengthening his expertise in youth protection and juvenile justice; and

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Chief Trotter distinguished himself through assignments in the Juvenile Warrant Unit and the Warrants, Levies, and Evictions Unit, building a strong foundation in field operations and court procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, his professionalism and leadership earned him promotion to Deputy Sergeant, where he supervised operations at Police Court South, the Markham Sixth District Courthouse, and the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board, conducting background investigations for new hires; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, he transitioned to the Sheriff's Police Department as a Police Officer, serving in the Markham Sixth District and the Ford Heights area, where he provided exceptional patrol services; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, his investigative skills earned him assignment to the Investigations Division, where he attained the rank of Detective; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 2012, Sheriff Tom Dart selected Detective Trotter to create and lead the Child Protection Response Unit (CPRU), established to assist the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and law-enforcement partners in locating missing juveniles; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, under his leadership, the CPRU was expanded and formally designated as the Child Rescue Unit (CRU), enhancing investigative capacity through strengthened collaboration between the Cook County Sheriff's Office and DCFS; and

**WHEREAS**, since its inception, the Child Rescue Unit has successfully located more than 1,300 missing juveniles, including infants, and remains one of the most effective child-recovery teams in the State of Illinois; and



**WHEREAS**, Deputy Chief Trotter's leadership led to promotions to Sergeant of the Child Rescue Unit in 2015, Police Lieutenant in 2019, Commander of the Special Victims Unit in 2020, and Deputy Chief in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, as Deputy Chief, he has overseen human trafficking initiatives, child protection programs, and the Special Victims Division, and was instrumental in establishing and expanding specialized units including the Missing Persons Unit, Gun Tracer Unit, Victim Support Services Unit, and the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 2023, under his leadership, the Special Victims Unit conducted a coordinated undercover human trafficking operation resulting in the arrest of ten individuals in a two-week period, one of the most significant anti-trafficking enforcement efforts in the division's history, publicly recognized by Sheriff Tom Dart; and

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Chief Trotter serves as a trusted partner and subject-matter expert on numerous federal, state, and regional bodies, including the Illinois Child Death Review Team, Illinois Children's Justice Task Force, Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition, Southland Juvenile Justice Council, Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force, and the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Child Sex Trafficking Task Force, and is a member of the FBI National Academy Associates, International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, he was entrusted with leading the Sheriff's countywide recruitment strategy, implementing innovative community partnerships that resulted in a significant increase in applicants; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, Deputy Chief Trotter was appointed to lead the Sheriff's Retention Unit, continuing to strengthen employee engagement, professional development, and workforce stability; and

**WHEREAS**, his distinguished career includes numerous honors, including the Meritorious Award, the 2023 National Sheriffs' Association Award for Child Protection, the Cook County Sheriff's Above and Beyond Award, multiple unit citations, and departmental commendations; and

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Chief Trotter is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and the FBI National Academy, reflecting the highest standards of law-enforcement leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Chief Trotter is a proud United States Navy veteran, a devoted husband, and a dedicated father to one son; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this body formally recognizes and honors Deputy Chief Dion T. Trotter for his extraordinary service, exemplary leadership, and lifelong dedication to the people of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Deputy Chief

Dion T. Trotter as an expression of gratitude and deep appreciation for his outstanding career and enduring contributions.

[26-0615](#)

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE HONORABLE E. KENNETH WRIGHT, JR.**

**WHEREAS,** The Honorable E. Kenneth Wright, Jr. has devoted his distinguished career to the fair administration of justice and to public service in Cook County and the State of Illinois; and

**WHEREAS,** Judge Wright was first appointed as a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in July 1994 and was subsequently elected to that office in November 1994, demonstrating the trust and confidence placed in him by both the judiciary and the voters of Cook County; and

**WHEREAS,** Prior to his judicial service, Judge Wright practiced law in the private sector where he handled criminal, divorce, probate, and real estate matters, as well as civil litigation, gaining broad legal experience that would later inform his judicial service; and

**WHEREAS,** In February 2003, Judge Wright became Presiding Judge of the First Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County providing leadership and oversight to one of the largest and busiest municipal court districts in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** before his appointment as Presiding Judge, Judge Wright served with distinction in the Probate Division and in numerous sections of the First Municipal District, including civil jury and non-jury sections, felony preliminary hearings-including felony drug hearings-and the traffic section; and

**WHEREAS,** Judge Wright has also demonstrated exceptional leadership within the legal profession serving as President of the Chicago Bar Association from 2008 to 2009; and

**WHEREAS,** in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the law and the legal community, Judge Wright received the Chicago Bar Association's prestigious John Paul Stevens Award in 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** Judge Wright's commitment to education and lifelong learning is evidenced by his academic accomplishments, including a Juris Doctor Degree from Northwestern University School of Law, a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Illinois, a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Arkansas, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas (AM&N College); and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor and commend The Honorable E. Kenneth Wright, Jr. for his exemplary judicial service, leadership, integrity, and dedication to the people of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to The Honorable

E. Kenneth Wright, Jr., as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the Cook County Board of Commissioners.