



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

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

Consent Agenda

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 10:00 AM

Third Set - Issued on: 3-13-2024

[24-2084](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

WHEREAS, the International Transgender Day of Visibility is recognized every year on March 31st to celebrate the joy and resilience of trans and non-binary people everywhere by elevating voices and experiences from these communities; and

WHEREAS, these celebrations, acknowledgements, and remembrances are vital affirmations of the lives of transgender people in our communities as they continue to face extreme institutional discrimination and violence on the basis of their gender identities; and

WHEREAS, according to Trans Legislation Tracker, since 2021 there have been over 140 bills passed nationally that target and discriminate against transgender people, in particular transgender youth; and

WHEREAS, according to Trans Legislation Tracker, there have already been 522 bills being considered nationwide that seek to restrict healthcare access and freedom of expression to transgender and nonbinary individuals,

WHEREAS, according to Trans Legislation Tracker, there have been seven anti-trans state bills introduced in Illinois for 2024; and

WHEREAS, these bills are introduced and passed with the express purpose of targeting and preventing access to healthcare, participation in sports, and the simple right to freely exist; and

WHEREAS, there are ongoing practices, including conversion therapy, that have been harmful to the whole LGBTQ+ community including transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming individuals; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy leads to critical health risks including anxiety, depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, homelessness, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, according to The Washington Post, school hate crimes have quadrupled in states with anti-LGBTQ+ laws on the books, which has coincided with a sharp uptick in callers to LGBTQ+ crisis hotlines following the rise in anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and legislation across states; and

WHEREAS, these bills that target the LGBTQ+ community and ban diversity and inclusion in education only work to affirm bullying, discrimination, and hate with devastating real-life consequences including the recent passing of Nex Benedict, an Indigenous non-binary 16-year-old student living in Owasso, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, today our transgender and nonbinary communities are experiencing significant political attacks by extremists legislating hate in the states and in Congress, while also facing an ongoing epidemic of fatal violence, especially against Black and Brown trans women; and

WHEREAS, International Transgender Day of Visibility aims to raise awareness about critical issues facing the community and to celebrate the richness and diversity that exists within the transgender community; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the great work of trans-led organizations and individuals who have advanced visibility and the well-being of the transgender community; and

WHEREAS, it remains important to celebrate and uplift the transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming people who have continued to serve their communities despite the continuous attacks they face, including Admiral Rachel L. Levine - the first trans presidential appointment as HHS Assistant Secretary, Virginia State Senator Danica Roem - the first openly transgender person to be elected and serve in a state legislature in U.S. history, Delaware State Senator Sara McBride - the first openly transgender state senator in the country, Minneapolis City Council President Andrea Jenkins - the first Black openly transgender woman elected to public office in the United States, Commissioner Precious Brady-Davis - the first black trans woman to be appointed to the MWRD, and Cook County Judge Jill Rose Quinn - the first openly transgender circuit court judge in the State of Illinois and the first openly transgender elected official in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, we commit to the work of listening to transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming people as we continue to work toward enacting equitable policies to uplift marginalized citizens and eliminating violence toward them; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby reaffirm its commitment to the transgender and non-binary community and does hereby recognize March 31, 2024, to be International Transgender Day of Visibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies be given to local organizations serving the transgender community.

[24-2088](#)

Sponsored by: MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING DENNIS K. RYAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE O'HARE NOISE COMPATIBILITY COMMISSION'S TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Dennis K. Ryan is retiring as Vice-Chair of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission's Technical Committee, a position in which he has served since 2011; and

WHEREAS, he has served as the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission representative for the Village of River Grove since February 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ryan is a disabled U.S. Navy veteran who was a Second Class Petty Officer. He served as a radioman in Vietnam, the Philippines and aboard the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Bon Homme Richard*; and

WHEREAS, he holds a bachelor's degree in real estate and finance from DePaul University Chicago and a master's degree in Public Safety and Homeland Security Management from Southern Illinois University, Graduate School of Justice, and Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, he founded the Dennis K. Ryan Realty Companies in 1972, where he is a managing broker, builder and consultant; and

WHEREAS, he and his wife of 54 years, Noreen, have lived in River Grove since 1976; and

WHEREAS, as an active citizen in River Grove, Mr. Ryan introduced Building Ordinance Code Administration laws in the village and headed the BOCA inspection department for four years. He was also a part-time police sergeant and radio operator with the village's police department for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ryan is currently Vice President of the River Grove Public Library District Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ryan is an advanced class amateur radio operator and had received numerous awards for his volunteer work during disasters and emergencies, including recognition by the American Radio Relay League. He also volunteered for the Village of Melrose Park Emergency Services and Public Safety Department for 20 years; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners offer their sincere congratulations to Dennis K. Ryan upon his retirement, in recognition of his service with passion and distinction to both to the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission's Technical Committee and to his community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be tendered to Dennis K. Ryan, as a token of the respect of the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

[24-2096](#)

Sponsored by: MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING JAMES JENNINGS, ESTEEMED EDUCATOR IN ELMWOOD PARK

WHEREAS, James Jennings is a highly respected, beloved educator who has dedicated a total of thirty-three years to the field of education, leaving an enduring mark on the educational institutions in Elmwood Park; and

WHEREAS, he has served as a popular Principal of Elmwood Park High School for 17 years, and more recently as Assistant Superintendent and Chief School Business Officer of Elmwood Park Community Unit District 401; and

WHEREAS, as a principal of Elmwood Park High School, he demonstrated leadership, vision, and a commitment to providing an environment of academic excellence to nearly a generation of high school students; and

WHEREAS, as Assistant Superintendent and Chief School Business Officer, James has shown a commitment to leadership and organizational management, particularly showcasing his proficiency in the financial aspects of managing educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, James earned his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, holds a Master's degree in School Administration; and holds a Certificate in School Business Administration, providing a foundation for his professional roles in the financial administration of District 401; and

WHEREAS, he began his career as a teacher in Long Beach, California, where he met his wife, Kim, also a teacher, and they taught together before ultimately transferring to Elmwood Park, where they have been married for 28 years and raised four daughters; and

WHEREAS, James Jennings is retiring after a long and fruitful career in education; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, offer their congratulations to James Jennings in recognition of his serving his students and his community with passion and distinction;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be tendered to James Jennings, as a token of the respect of the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.