



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

Second Consent Agenda

for the

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, August 3, 2016, 11:00 AM

16-4679

Sponsored by: LARRY SUFFREDIN, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE PIONEERING SPIRIT OF DAVID F. JAMES, CIVIL RIGHTS CHAMPION, ATTORNEY AND TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

WHEREAS, David F. James, an exceptional man whose life was devoted to family, social justice and his community died at the age of 92 leaving behind a devoted family, countless friends and a community profoundly enriched for having known him; and

WHEREAS, David James represented the best qualities of citizenship and humanity through his tireless work breaking down barriers. He will long be remembered for making history on numerous fronts; he was the first African-American salesperson hired by the electronics company Burroughs, first African-American attorney hired by the American Bar Association, and the first African-American home owner in Winnetka; and

WHEREAS, David F. James was born in 1923 in St. Louis, Missouri to William and Ada James who instilled in their children strong values of service, education and dedication to community

WHEREAS, David James was not satisfied with simply making history for himself, his dedication to justice and equality drove him to create organizations devoted to breaking down the barriers for others. James and his wife, Mary, established Together We Influence Growth (TWIG) Day Camp that brings together children from South Side neighborhoods and children from the North Shore. James was also a founding member of the North Shore Interfaith Housing Council now called Open Communities, which is organized to fight housing discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James grew up on the south side of Chicago and attended Lane Tech High School where he developed a fondness for aviation. Afterwards, he attended Loyola University. During his freshman year in college James joined the Army. Because the Army was racially segregated he was forced to go to the only training facility for black pilots at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. He flew in numerous bombing missions with the 332nd Fighter Group over Germany and Eastern Europe and by the end of his tour obtained the rank of Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, after he returned from fighting the war in Europe, David James dedicated himself to fighting for civil rights at home. He helped coordinate the North Shore Summer Project's 1965 rally on the Winnetka Village Green featuring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and in 2007, 42 years to the day of that historic time and on the same spot, he was a part of the dedication of a monument to Dr. King and the movement that galvanized thousands; and

WHEREAS, David James graduated from Loyola University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and was hired by business machine manufacturer Burroughs Corporation; he became the company's first African-American salesman. James later worked with the University of Chicago before he was appointed as a deputy director with the State of Illinois. While there, part of his responsibilities involved working on the "War on Poverty." James later graduated from DePaul University College of Law with his Juris Doctorate degree; and

WHEREAS, David James not only was the first African-American hired by the American Bar Association he later became its director; and

WHEREAS, David James served as an administrative law judge for the United States Department of Labor. He later went into private practice as an attorney and remained there until 2000; and

WHEREAS, David F. James, along with more than one hundred other Tuskegee Airmen, attended the Inauguration Ceremony of President Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, David James is a longtime member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Winnetka; he frequently traveled to Haiti as a member of the Sacred Heart's mission delegation. It was at Friendship House, a Catholic center in Chicago where David James met his future wife, Mary Galloway, who had graduated from the University of Wisconsin law school and was, like him, committed to institutional change and social equality; and

WHEREAS, the impact felt by the loss of David F. James is significant and has left a tremendous void in the community. His loss will be felt most acutely by his three surviving siblings, six children, David, Mary, Peter, Cathy, Tom, and Ann,, and numerous grandchildren ; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County commemorates the extraordinary life of David F. James, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions he has made to the Citizens of Cook County, Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to the family of David James that his memory may be so honored.

16-4680

Sponsored by: PETER N. SILVESTRI, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING MARILYNN MAY FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE VILLAGE OF RIVER GROVE

WHEREAS, Marilynn May has retired as President of the Village of River Grove after serving in that capacity for twelve years; and

WHEREAS, prior to becoming Village President, she served for four years as a village trustee and 26 years in various administrative positions in River Grove; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Marilyn May was elected to the Leyden Township Board and remained a township trustee for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of the Executive Board of the West Cook Solid Waste Agency and the West Central Municipal Conference and was a member of the Cook County Community Development Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn May was a highly respected and admired civic leader and a mentor to many elected officials in suburban Cook County. She has received numerous honors and accolades throughout her career in public service; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her tireless efforts on behalf of her community, she is a generous supporter of the Michael S. DeLarco Foundation. The foundation was started to honor the memory of 10 year old Michael, who was struck and killed by a Metra train in River Grove in 2004. The foundation, which raises funds to support children's charitable organizations, was dear to President May's late son, Tony and she continues to support this important cause to honor both of her late sons and Michael DeLarco; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn May was a loving mother to both Nicholas and Tony. She was a devoted daughter and is a wonderful sister to her siblings and a steadfast friend to many; and

WHEREAS, what has endeared her to the residents of River Grove for decades is her genuine love for the town and its people. She was a compassionate, hard-working and dedicated Village President, always available to listen to the concerns of her residents. She had a special affection for River Grove's youngest and oldest citizens and enjoyed attending both school and senior events; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn May truly exemplifies River Grove's motto, "The Village of Friendly Neighbors" and her commitment to her community will be greatly missed and long remembered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby thank Marilyn May for her outstanding career for the public good and extends its best wishes to her in her well-deserved retirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered as evidence of the esteem in which she is held by this Honorable Body.

16-4696

Sponsored by: JESÚS G. GARCÍA, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING ECUADORIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, on August 10, 1809, Ecuador was the first country in Latin America to claim Independence; and

WHEREAS, the Colonia de Cotopaxi and the Ecuadorian Community of Chicago will be celebrating the 207th anniversary of the First Cry of Independence in Latin America; and

WHEREAS, those who fought for an end to foreign domination in Ecuador merit special honor, for their long and difficult struggle, which began with the establishment of self-government in Quito on August 10, 1809 and resulted in victory in May 24, 1822; and

WHEREAS, the Ecuadorian community in Chicago makes a rich and significant contribution to the strength of this County and the City of Chicago by devoting their talents, traditions, and viewpoints to the collective good; and

WHEREAS, as an immigrant who proudly calls Cook County and the City of Chicago home, we appreciate all of the ethnic communities that make Cook County the diverse plate that it is, and certainly the Ecuadorian community is valued for their contributions to this County; and

WHEREAS, we wish the Ecuadorian community continuing success as it enhances the cultural richness that makes Illinois the gem of the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, we commend the Colonia de Cotopaxi and Jorge Burbano, Executive Director, for highlighting the importance of the First Cry of Independence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the citizens of Cook County, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, August 10, 2016 to be “Ecuadorian Independence Day” in Cook County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the Colonia de Cotopaxi and to the Honorable Carlos Lenin Housse Dávalos, Consul General of Ecuador in Chicago to commemorate this auspicious occasion.

16-4702

Sponsored by: JESÚS G. GARCÍA, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ALEXANDER “ALEX” MEDINA

WHEREAS, Alexander “Alex” Medina was born on September 16, 1963 in California, and later lived in Juarez, Chihuahua for 8 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Alex and his family moved to the Little Village neighborhood and lived at 30th and Christiana; and

WHEREAS, Alex attended McCormick Elementary through 4th grade and then transferred to Gary Elementary where he was an avid baseball player; and

WHEREAS, Alex graduated 8th grade in 1979 and attended the prestigious Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, excelling in math and music; and

WHEREAS, Alex attended DeVry Technical Institute and received his certification in his early twenties and became an electrical apprentice in 1988, and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 134 for 27 years; and

WHEREAS, Alex was assigned to electrical maintenance at McCormick Place before moving to Navy Pier where he worked as the head electrician and conducted the set-up and sound check for famous artists at the Pier’s concert venues; and

WHEREAS, inspired by Carlos Santana, Jimi Hendrix, and Eric Clapton, along with other renowned guitar virtuosos, Alex developed a love for playing guitar and joined various local bands and was invited to perform with many other musicians; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Alex amassed a collection of guitars, which he would play for guests at block parties; and

WHEREAS, Alex shared all his talents, skills and friendship with the community of musicians that were part of his extended family; and

WHEREAS, Alex also became committed to social change through electoral political action at the local, state and national levels in the 80’s; which continued to the present; and

WHEREAS, Alex was known throughout the years as one of the 22nd Ward’s top precinct captains for his ability to relate and assist voters, always giving of himself; and

WHEREAS, Alex’s civic engagement earned him the reputation of the committed political community activist; and

WHEREAS, Alex was a loving, caring father to his daughter Tali Sol Medina; and

WHEREAS, Alex was very active in his daughter's schooling and extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, Tali Sol was Alex's heart and soul and he always wanted to guide her to see her successes and failures as growing experiences; and

WHEREAS, Alex was loving and dedicated to all who surrounded him: his immediate family, his musician brothers and sisters, his political brothers and sisters, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Alex's family and friends mourn his loss but his memory will forever be in their hearts, prayers and thoughts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners commemorates the life and legacy of Alexander "Alex" Medina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Alex Medina.