



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

Virtual Meeting

New Items Agenda

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 10:00 AM

Fifth Set

[21-5745](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION ON THE ILLINOIS SMART CITY AND REGION ASSOCIATION TO PRESENT TO THE COOK COUNTY TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, The **Illinois Smart City & Region Association** (ISCRA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit member association; and

WHEREAS, ISCRA's mission is to provide education, information, and vital resources through collaboration to more than 1,200 Illinois municipalities and corresponding regions; and

WHEREAS, the education from ISCRA seeks to promote appropriate technology initiatives for a given community and how to properly adopt technologies for their respective connected community initiatives; and

WHEREAS, ISCRA is a comprehensive platform where technology providers, together with city staff and local elected officials converge to discuss the development and deployment potential of networked technologies on top of a city's existing infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, these objectives are performed in an effort to reduce a community's operating costs, drive efficiencies, and establish sustainable models intent on impacting the quality of life for all citizens and businesses while pushing Illinois to become one of the few smart States in the USA; and

WHEREAS, ISCRA is part of a larger coalition, National Smart Coalitions Partnership (NSCP). The coalition represents efforts of regional smart city organizations from Colorado, Texas, Missouri, Illinois, Arizona and Florida to make it easier to scale projects and work through some of the larger issues like privacy, connectivity and data sharing; and

WHEREAS, it remains vital for local governments to stay on the cutting edge of technology in order to best serve the residents of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is committed to working with municipal, regional, and State of Illinois partners to collaborate on advancing smart solutions that leverage the newest and most effective technology; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners asks representatives from the Illinois Smart Cities and Regions Association to appear before the Cook County Technology and Innovation Committee to discuss their work and the role Cook County can play in promoting collaboration with municipal partners to advance smart technology investments.

[21-5752](#)

Sponsored by: BRIDGET DEGNEN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A HEARING ASSESSING THE NEEDS OF THE AFGHAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND AFGHAN REFUGEES RESETTLED IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2021 the United States military ended a nearly 20-year occupation of Afghanistan. The war ultimately ended in a collapse of the Afghan government and an overtaking of the government by the Taliban; and

WHEREAS, according to reports, the United States is preparing to bring 50,000 Afghan refugees into the United States in the next year, with at least 500 expected to be resettled in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2021, 75 unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan arrived in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, due to catastrophic violence and bloodshed, recent Afghan Refugees and Asylum Seekers have fled their country, home and families and will require their basic human needs be met through community and government support as they resettle in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the greater Cook County community has identified a desire and willingness to support Afghan Refugees and Asylum Seekers, but a list of specific needs and services, along with streamlined collection point is required to organize a response; and

WHEREAS, the IL Muslim Civic Coalition has built partnerships with over 150 local, regional, and national organizations to collectively impact underserved and often invisible communities, including Afghan Refugees and Asylum Seekers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Human Rights Commission is called to a hearing before the Legislation and Intergovernmental Committee with the IL Muslim Civic Coalition and its partners, RefugeeOne and the Muslim Women Resource Center, along with any other relevant organizations selected by the Human Rights Commission to discuss and identify the needs of recent Afghan Refugees and Afghan Asylum Seekers and make recommendations to the Cook County Board and the greater Cook County community on how it may marshal resources to support this refugee community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, within 60 days after the hearing, the Cook County Human Rights Commission will provide a report to the Cook County Board detailing the outcome of the hearing and documenting methods to best support the short and long term needs of recent Afghan Refugees and Asylum Seekers.