



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

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

BOARD NOTICE AND AGENDA

Thursday, March 12, 2026, 11:00 AM

Consent Meeting - Issued on 3/6/2026

[26-0966](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COOK COUNTY INTERNATIONAL TRADE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM'S SISTER COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS AND COUNTY CORK, IRELAND

WHEREAS, in 1995, Cook County launched the International Trade Partnership Program to promote trade and investment between Cook County and strategic partner regions around the world in order to foster bilateral trade and provide linkages between businesses locally and overseas; and

WHEREAS, in March 1998, a delegation from County Cork, Ireland made their first visit to Cook County, Illinois to participate in a series of government business and cultural events; and

WHEREAS, in July 1999, a delegation of government and business leaders from Cook County Illinois travelled to Cork County, Ireland for an economic, educational and cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, in July 1999, at a Cork County Council meeting, the Cook County, Illinois - County Cork, Ireland Sister-County Partnership Agreement was signed; and

WHEREAS, in October 2000, the Cook County Partners with Ireland Committee was established to facilitate the International Trade Partnership Program with regions in Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Cook County and County Cork have worked together over the past 27 years to develop and strengthen relations between companies, educational institutions, organizations and individual entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, government officials representing Cook County, Illinois and Cork County, Ireland along with business leaders from both regions have since been working to promote bilateral trade and exchange in the areas of biotechnology, information technology, institutions of higher education, small business enterprises & tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Sister-County Partnership has been responsible for numerous successful ventures over the past 27 years including:

- the establishment of a PhD level student exchange program between the Illinois Institute of Technology IIT (now known as Illinois TECH) and the Cork Institute of Technology (now known as Munster Technological University);

- a cooperative agreement between leading technology associations in both regions to provide pro bono office space to entrepreneurs seeking to establish a presence in Cook County or County Cork;
- the sponsorship of a cultural training program in Ireland for residents of Cook County's Mercy Home for Boys & Girls in which the sixth group of Cook County young people traveled to Cork last June to learn and grow through outdoor activities, life-skills training and team-building exercises.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of more than 5 million residents of Cook County, recognize this long-standing partnership and do hereby welcome the Mayor of the County of Cork Ireland, Councillor Mary Linehan Foley, and the Cork County delegation to Cook County, Illinois; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Councillor Mary Linehan Foley, Mayor of the County of Cork and the Cork County Council in recognition of our continued partnership.

[26-0967](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President) and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNIE BAUMANN

WHEREAS, Ernie Baumann was a tumbling instructor, an entrepreneur, a civil rights activist, an entertainer, and a community builder whose five-decade mission helped shape the lives of tens of thousands of children across Chicago's western suburbs and the West Side through Maywood Fine Arts; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Baumann, born on April 9, 1939, was adopted and raised by a family in Western Springs; after graduating from Lyons Township High School, where he was a member of the gymnastics team, he served in the United States Navy; he proceeded to work as a house parent at a Lutheran children's home in Maywood, where he operated a small business, The Newspaper Store, which became a gathering place for commuters and creatives alike; he met his future wife, Lois Baumann, in 1966, and they married in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Ernie and Lois Baumann first worked within the Maywood Recreation Department, where he taught tumbling and she taught dance, coordinating all-day park programming for neighborhood children; the couple then established the Stairway of the Stars Dance Studio and Mr. Ernie's Flip, Flop and Fly Tumbling School; and

WHEREAS, Ernie and Lois Baumann continued to pursue their mission of keeping the arts accessible, affordable, and centered on children by founding the nonprofit Maywood Fine Arts in 1996; they faced a serious setback when Maywood Fine Arts' beloved dance studio, housed in the former Maywood Opera House, was destroyed by fire in 2010; through a grassroots campaign called Raising the Barre and the efforts of students, they were able to raise funds to rebuild; by 2016, they had a new, \$2 million, state-of-the-art dance facility; and

WHEREAS, Ernie and Lois Baumann transformed Maywood Fine Arts into one of the most enduring and inclusive youth arts institutions in the region, an organization that today serves thousands of children each week and has produced multiple generations of alumni working across the arts, education, and entertainment industries; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Baumann was a husband, father, grandfather, mentor, and friend who will be remembered for the positive impact he made on the arts, his community, and the lives of his students; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby mourn the passing of Ernie Baumann and extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Ernie Baumann as an expression of our deepest sympathy.

[26-0924](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President) and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NATIONAL REBUILDING DAY 2026

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago, a volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income homes and communities, repaired its first home in suburban Cook County in 1992, and has since rehabilitated nearly 1,900 homes, as well as assisted in the development of essential community centers and gardens; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is an affiliate of Rebuilding Together, a national nonprofit organization, which sponsors National Rebuilding Day across the country on the last Saturday in April; and

WHEREAS, every year Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago selects neighborhoods in Cook County in which to provide home repair for elderly, disabled or low-income individuals; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 volunteers annually, including Cook County employees, donate their time

and talents to plan and complete hundreds of free home repairs for residents in Cook County through Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago's volunteer teams; and

WHEREAS, repairs typically focus on keeping homeowners "warm, safe, and dry" and also improve access for low-income seniors, veterans and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, this year, Rebuilding Together services will be rendered for a home in Maywood; and

WHEREAS, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago is an example of Cook County and other local governments working in partnership with private entities to assist residents and communities in need; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby recognize and express Cook County's sincere gratitude to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago and its participating partners, as we work together to restore homes to a warm, safe, and dry condition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that various departments, including, but not limited to, the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Administration, and the Bureau of Asset Management continue to work annually with Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago to determine project scope for the Cook County sponsored projects and coordinate volunteers annually for National Rebuilding Day activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Economic Development, Bureau of Administration and Bureau of Asset Management be recognized for their ongoing efforts in determining Cook County's annual project scope and determining repairs that will be conducted by Cook County employee volunteers for National Rebuilding Day activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago in acknowledgment of its past accomplishments and to a successful upcoming project.

[26-0849](#)

Sponsored by: JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET GAINER, SEAN M. MORRISON, BRIDGET DEGNEN, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, BILL LOWRY, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHANNON ROVERS IRISH PIPE BAND

WHEREAS, in 1926, Thomas F. Ryan gathered a group of twelve talented musicians on Chicago's West Side and founded the Shannon Rovers Bagpipe and Marching Band, establishing what would become one of the most distinguished and enduring musical institutions in the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the Shannon Rovers were originally formed to promote the proud tradition of Celtic music in Chicago and to provide a living link to the ethnic heritage of thousands of Irish immigrants who left their homeland in search of opportunity in the New World, ensuring that their culture, music, and traditions would flourish in their adopted city; and

WHEREAS, through discipline, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to musical excellence, the Shannon Rovers grew from a neighborhood ensemble into a revered civic institution whose sound has become synonymous with celebration, remembrance, and Irish pride throughout Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the importance of the Shannon Rovers to the City was formally recognized in 1965 when Mayor Richard J. Daley declared them "Chicago's Official Band," a designation reflecting their extraordinary contributions to the cultural and ceremonial life of the community; and

WHEREAS, over the decades, the Shannon Rovers have performed before every President of the United States, as well as numerous foreign heads of state and honored dignitaries, bringing distinction to Chicago on both national and international stages; and

WHEREAS, the Shannon Rovers are widely known for their prominent and cherished role in Chicago's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, one of the largest and most celebrated observances of its kind in the world, where their stirring music has become a hallmark of the City's vibrant Irish heritage; and

WHEREAS, for one hundred years, the Shannon Rovers have served as outstanding ambassadors for their hometown, performing for appreciative audiences at home and abroad while mentoring new generations of musicians and preserving the time-honored traditions of Celtic pipe and drum music; and

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Shannon Rovers, a rare and

remarkable milestone in the life of any organization; and

WHEREAS, a Centenary Jubilee Celebration will commemorate this joyous and historic occasion, honoring a century of cultural stewardship, musical excellence, and civic pride; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby extend its heartfelt congratulations to the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band on the historic occasion of their Centenary Jubilee Anniversary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honorable Body recognizes the enduring spirit, discipline, and dedication that have defined the Shannon Rovers for a full century, and acknowledges their profound contribution to the cultural fabric, civic traditions, and international reputation of Chicago and Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the Shannon Rovers commence their second century, this Board expresses its confidence that they will continue to uphold their distinguished legacy, serving as proud ambassadors of Chicago and preserving the rich traditions of Celtic music for generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and that a suitably prepared copy be presented to the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band as a lasting tribute and expression of the gratitude and admiration of the people of Cook County on this Centennial occasion.

[26-0853](#)

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

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY ST. CHRISTINA CATHOLIC PARISH

WHEREAS, in 1926, in the Mount Greenwood community on Chicago's southwest side, St. Christina Catholic Parish was founded to serve the spiritual needs of a growing Catholic population and, for one hundred years, has faithfully ministered to generations of families through worship, religious education, and extensive charitable outreach; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Thomas Friel was appointed as the first pastor of St. Christina Catholic Parish and celebrated the first Holy Mass at Cunningham School, laying the spiritual foundation upon which the

parish community would flourish; and

WHEREAS, through the dedication and sacrifice of its early parishioners, a portable church was constructed in 1927 to provide a permanent place of worship, and in 1935 a beautiful brick church was completed, where Mass was joyfully celebrated for the first time on Christmas Day, marking a significant milestone in the parish's history; and

WHEREAS, the parish later established St. Christina School, expanding its mission to provide Catholic education rooted in faith, academic excellence, leadership, and service, thereby nurturing generations of students who have gone on to contribute meaningfully to their church, their community, and society at large; and

WHEREAS, throughout its century of service, St. Christina Catholic Parish has continually responded to the evolving needs of its parishioners, upholding and advancing the spiritual, educational, and charitable mission of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, while fostering a strong sense of faith, fellowship, and civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, St. Christina Catholic Parish has long been recognized as a close-knit and welcoming community, where multiple generations of families have remained in the neighborhood, strengthening the bonds of faith and friendship and contributing to the stability and vitality of the Mount Greenwood neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 100th Anniversary of St. Christina Catholic Parish, a historic milestone celebrating a century of devotion, service, and community building; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, April 11, 2026, a special All-Parish Reunion Mass was held in celebration of the 100th Anniversary Year of St. Christina Parish, followed by an evening of fellowship and celebration, bringing together parishioners past and present in joyful commemoration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County does hereby extend its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all parishioners, clergy, religious, faculty, alumni, and friends of St. Christina Catholic Parish on the joyous occasion of its 100th Anniversary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and that an official copy of same be presented to St. Christina Catholic Parish and to the Reverend Ryan Brady, Pastor, as a lasting tribute to a century of faith, service, and community.

[26-0912](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), BILL LOWRY, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, 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

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND JESSE LOUIS JACKSON, SR.

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners mourns the passing and celebrates the extraordinary life, indelible legacy, and tireless activism of Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., who departed this life on February 17, 2026, a towering figure in the modern civil rights movement, a passionate advocate for social justice, and one of the most influential African American leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries; and

WHEREAS, born on October 8, 1941, in Greenville, South Carolina, Reverend Jackson rose from humble beginnings to become an internationally respected voice for the oppressed, the disenfranchised, and the marginalized. He earned a football scholarship to the University of Illinois before transferring to North Carolina A&T State University, where he embraced activism and graduated with a degree in sociology. He later studied at the Chicago Theological Seminary and was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson's leadership was forged under the mentorship of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with whom he worked closely as a young aide in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He played a pivotal role in major civil rights demonstrations, including the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches, and was present in Memphis on the day Dr. King was tragically assassinated in 1968; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Dr. King's death, Reverend Jackson founded Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) in 1971, a Chicago-based organization that championed economic empowerment, educational equity, and Black self-determination. Under his visionary leadership, Operation PUSH helped broker agreements with major corporations to expand employment opportunities and increase minority business participation; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson further expanded his impact through the founding of the Rainbow Coalition in 1984, a progressive and inclusive political movement that sought to unite diverse constituencies, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, LGBTQ+ communities, labor unions, environmentalists, and the poor, under a shared vision of justice, peace, and equality. The Rainbow Coalition later merged with Operation PUSH to form Rainbow/PUSH; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson's historic bids for the presidency of the United States in 1984 and 1988

shattered barriers and redefined American politics. In his 1988 campaign, he won over seven (7) million votes and eleven (11) primary contests, making him the most successful African American presidential candidate in history at that time. His candidacy galvanized a new generation of political engagement and laid the groundwork for future leaders of color, including President Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson was also internationally renowned for his diplomatic efforts, having traveled to Syria, Iraq, Cuba, and other global regions to negotiate the release of hostages and promote peace. His moral courage and global vision earned him admiration far beyond the borders of the United States; and

WHEREAS, throughout his remarkable career, Reverend Jackson received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, awarded to him in 2000 by President Bill Clinton for his lifelong commitment to nonviolence, civil rights, and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, despite his global reach, Reverend Jackson remained rooted in Chicago, where his activism, mentorship, and unwavering dedication shaped generations of leaders, uplifted countless communities, and transformed lives. His voice stood as a clarion call for justice, dignity, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr.'s life was one of profound service, moral clarity, and bold leadership. He embodied the conviction that democracy demands participation, that faith must be lived out in action, and that change is not only possible, but inevitable when driven by courage and compassion; and

WHEREAS, his passing on February 17, 2026, marks the end of a transformative chapter in American history, yet his enduring legacy will continue to inspire movements for justice, equity, and peace for generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, INCLUDING BILL LOWRY, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET GAINER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, 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, do hereby honor and commemorate the life and legacy of Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., whose lifelong commitment to justice, equality, and human dignity profoundly shaped Cook County, our nation, and the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Jackson family as a symbol of Cook County's deepest condolences, enduring gratitude, and unwavering respect for a man whose life was a testament to the power of conviction, the

necessity of compassion, and the transformative force of visionary leadership. Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd. District.

[26-0972](#)

Sponsored by: DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING A DUAL CENTENNIAL OF HISTORY AND LEGACY

WHEREAS, Mrs. Orene May was born on February 6, 1926, in Birmingham, Alabama, and her life journey spans a century of profound social, cultural, and historical transformation; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, she relocated to Chicago, Illinois, where she began laying the foundation for a life rooted in community, family, and faith, carrying forward the values instilled through family and shared history as one of four siblings; and

WHEREAS, her life's journey reflects the story of Black history in motion-marked by courage, resilience, and purpose-as she journeyed from the South to the West and ultimately returned to Chicago, embodying the determination and perseverance of a generation that helped shape the Black experience in America; and

WHEREAS, around the year 2000, Mrs. May became an active and faithful member of Calvary Baptist Church of Glenwood, where for more than 21 years her devotion has reflected a life grounded in faith, consistency, and service to community; and

WHEREAS, known for her quiet strength and unwavering dignity, Mrs. May has lived a life defined by independence, discipline, and grace, continuing to reside independently within the 5th District of the Southland area, serving as a living testimony to endurance and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. May's legacy lives powerfully through her family, as a devoted mother and matriarch whose love, faith, and guidance have shaped generations of children, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and extended relatives; and

WHEREAS, her life has paved the way for younger generations-especially Black women-to step forward with confidence, purpose, and leadership, recognizing that today's progress is built upon the strength and sacrifice of those who came before.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that in this historic year marking 100 years of Black History Month, we proudly honor the 100th birthday of Mrs. Orene May, celebrating her extraordinary life as a living reflection of Black history, resilience, faith, and legacy; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that this day be observed in recognition of Mrs. May's

remarkable century of life, the history she has witnessed, the lives she has shaped, and the enduring example she leaves for generations to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this proclamation is hereby issued with deepest respect, admiration, and gratitude, honoring a life well lived and a legacy that will continue to inspire.

[26-0867](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER and TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING WORLD DOULA DAY AND DOULA WEEK IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, March 22, 2026, marks the globally celebrated World Doula Day, and heralding the start of Doula Week; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 World Doula Week theme, “Holding Humanity: Doulas at the Heart of Care,” underscores the critical need for an increase in doulas, supported by compelling research that shows enhanced maternal well-being and significantly lower intervention rates, highlighting the transformative impact of doulas during pregnancy and childbirth; and

WHEREAS, World Doula Day and Doula Week serve as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary contributions of doulas worldwide, honoring their steadfast commitment to supporting women, newborns, and families through the transformative journey of childbirth and postpartum period; and

WHEREAS, doulas are vital in nurturing the physiological, social, emotional, and psychological well-being of individuals and families, providing guidance, advocacy, and compassionate care throughout the birthing process and beyond; and

WHEREAS, in Cook County, we emphasize the critical importance of recognizing and celebrating the relentless dedication of doulas, highlighting the need to empower these essential caregivers who elevate the childbirth experience and promote holistic health outcomes for mothers, infants, and families; and

WHEREAS, Doula Week offers a platform to raise awareness, honor the legacy, and spotlight the crucial role of doulas in championing informed decision-making, maternal autonomy, and inclusive support systems within diverse communities worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Cook County Health launched its inaugural Doula Program last March, a 3-year, \$3 million initiative to support the physical and emotional well-being of mothers before, during, and after pregnancy, aiming to improve maternal health outcomes in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, doula services not only enhance maternal health outcomes but also reduce costs associated with maternal mortality and morbidity by decreasing reliance on pain medication, shortening labor duration, reducing hospital stays, minimizing operative deliveries like C-sections and episiotomies, increasing APGAR scores, and lowering infant and maternal mortality rates;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this esteemed body, in alignment with World Doula Day and World Doula Week, hereby recognizes and commemorates March 22, 2026, as Doula Day and March 22nd - March 28th as Doula Week in Cook County, extending profound gratitude to all doulas in Cook County and across the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body urges individuals, organizations, and communities to actively engage in commemorating World Doula Day and Doula Week, acknowledging the profound impact of doulas in fostering positive birth experiences, nurturing maternal-infant bonding, and promoting the well-being of families worldwide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be disseminated in the official proceedings of this Honorable Body as a testament to our collective commitment to honoring and uplifting the vital contributions of doulas in creating a more compassionate and equitable society.

[26-0909](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER and TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING JANET ROGERS FOR HER OUTSTANDING CAREER IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Janet Rogers, a dedicated Harvey resident, has championed education and community advancement for nearly four decades; and

WHEREAS, as the first college graduate in her family, Janet's personal journey fuels her unwavering belief in education's transformative power; and

WHEREAS, Janet earned a B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in 1977, a Master's in Counseling from Governors State University in 1980, and a Special Education Endorsement (6-12) from National Louis University in 1982; and

WHEREAS, from 1982-2009, Janet dedicated her career to Bloom School District 206 in Chicago Heights, IL, teaching Culinary Arts and Special Education; and

WHEREAS, Janet consistently exceeded expectations for her students, working with high schoolers, including those with behavior disorders and emotional disturbances, and for twenty years, she secured employment for students with special needs through a WIA Grant she co-authored with the Cook County

Office of Employment Training staff; and

WHEREAS, Janet also taught job readiness and social skills, counseled students in the evenings to help them earn necessary graduation credits, and co-wrote a grant to establish night school for these students; and

WHEREAS, Janet's passion for educational excellence transcends the classroom, as she has led and inspired on numerous educational boards, including: President of Harvey School District 152 Board of Education, Director of the South Cook Division of the Illinois School Board Association (IASB), Member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE), Member of the National School Board Association (NSBA), Member of the Black Caucus Association for School Board Members, Member of the South Suburban College Board of Trustees, and Member of the Illinois Community College Trustee Association; and

WHEREAS, appointed to the South Suburban College (SSC) Board of Trustees in 2013, Janet currently serves as the ICCTA Representative and Chairperson of the Policy Committee, where her leadership and vision have been instrumental in shaping the college's policies and strategic direction; and

WHEREAS, Janet has also contributed to various community boards, including: Former Fundraising Chair for the Harvey Colts Football Team, Former Member of the Parent Advisory Group for Homewood Small Fry, Former Member of the Thornton High School Athletic Booster Club, Member of the Renegade Riders Motorcycle Club, Member of The Harvey/Markham Cancer Relay for Life, and Member of The South Cook County Mosquito Abatement District; and

WHEREAS, as President of the Harvey School District 152 Board of Education, Janet has focused on reinvesting in education and the community, and under her leadership, District 152 has achieved groundbreaking milestones, including the 2023 renovation and expansion of Maya Angelou Elementary School, a multi-million-dollar project that introduced state-of-the-art learning spaces and boosted local economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Janet's tireless advocacy earned her the prestigious Master School Board Member designation by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), recognizing her exceptional leadership and impact, and she remains committed to ensuring all students have equitable access to quality education and higher learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Janet has been a driving force behind numerous community fundraising initiatives, showcasing her unwavering commitment to the communities she serves, and continues to serve as a Substitute Teacher for Bloom High School District 206; and

WHEREAS, Janet embodies excellence, equity, and empowerment in education, and her dedicated service has left an indelible mark on the educational landscape, positively transforming the lives of countless students and their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, commend and honor Janet Rogers for her remarkable career and outstanding contributions to education and the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Janet Rogers as a token of our respect and esteem.

[26-0901](#)

Sponsored by: STANLEY MOORE and TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION HONORING SHERMANN “DILLA” THOMAS

WHEREAS, Shermann Thomas, affectionately known as “Dilla,” is an Emmy Award-winning modern historian, cultural worker, brand ambassador, influencer, activist, and proud lifelong resident of Chicago’s South Side; and

WHEREAS, through the power of storytelling and innovative use of social media, Dilla has created publicly accessible, perspective-shifting history lessons focused on the city of Chicago, garnering more than 40 million views and building a following of over 300,000 across platforms; and

WHEREAS, Dilla’s engaging digital presence has earned him recognition as Best Chicago Twitter Page, Best Chicago Instagram Page, and Best Chicago TikTok Page by Chicago Reader; and

WHEREAS, his impactful storytelling has led to national media appearances on programs including Today and The Kelly Clarkson Show, further amplifying Chicago’s cultural contributions to audiences across the country; and

WHEREAS, Dilla was named the 2022 Chicago Tourism Ambassador of the Year by Choose Chicago in recognition of his dedication to uplifting and promoting the city; and

WHEREAS, his work has been enshrined in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives, affirming his national impact and service; and

WHEREAS, Dilla has received honors from respected institutions including the American Planning Association, City Club of Chicago, and the Chicago Public Library Foundation, including the prestigious 21st Century Award, and has been recognized as a Studs Terkel Uplifting Voices recipient; and

WHEREAS, he has presented lectures and history lessons to institutions of higher learning around the globe, addressed Fortune 500 companies, and partnered with professional sports teams throughout Chicago and Cook County to celebrate and elevate the region’s legacy; and

WHEREAS, Dilla lives by the motto that “everything dope about America comes from Chicago,” and works tirelessly to reshape the narrative about Chicago and Cook County’s value to the nation and the world; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby honors Shermann “Dilla” Thomas for his outstanding contributions to historical education, cultural advocacy, civic engagement, and the global promotion of Chicago and Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be entered into the official proceedings of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and that a suitable copy be presented to Shermann “Dilla” Thomas as a token of the Board’s respect and appreciation.