



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

**Cook County Building, Board Room, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois (Board Room  
Closed to Public - Meeting Virtual for Public)**

**Consent Agenda**

**Thursday, June 16, 2022, 10:00 AM**

**Second Set**

[22-3729](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION HONORING JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION DAY IN THE VILLAGE OF HANOVER PARK**

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the enslaved people in Confederate territory free which led to the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, news regarding the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed and didn't reach authorities and African Americans in the South and Southwestern areas of the United States until June 19, 1865 when word reached Galveston, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19th holds special place of significance and meaning to the African-American community; and

**WHEREAS**, for over 150 years, Juneteenth, also known as "Emancipation Day," and "Freedom Day," continues to be the most recognized and the oldest African American holiday observed in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, a Juneteenth celebration in the Village of Hanover Park will take place on Saturday, June 18, 2022, at the Ontarioville Plaza; and

**WHEREAS**, JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION DAY in the Village of Hanover Park, Illinois will be celebrated and all residents are encouraged to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African-American history and in the heritage of our nation by attending the Juneteenth Celebration hosted by the Hanover Park Sister Cities Committee; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor the Juneteenth Celebration Day in the Village of Hanover Park; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this resolution are presented Village of Hanover Park Trustee Herb Porter, Mayor Rodney Craig, and the Village of Hanover Park Board of Trustees.

[22-3730](#)

**Sponsored by:** KEVIN B. MORRISON and TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING JUNE 5TH AS ILLINOIS STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER GREG HARRIS DAY IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Illinois State Representative and House Majority Leader Greg Harris of the 13th District has served the people of the State of Illinois since 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, Leader Harris was first elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 2006 and will retire from his seat in 2023 having served for 16 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Leader Harris received a Bachelors Degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder and started his career working for social service agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, Leader Harris went on to serve in several Senior Management roles for the National Home Furnishings Association; and

**WHEREAS**, Leader Harris served the people of the 48th Ward and City of Chicago for 14 years as Chief of Staff for Alderman Mary Ann Smith; and

**WHEREAS**, Leader Harris was elected as State Representative of the 13th District in 2006 carrying on the legacy of his predecessor, the first openly gay person to serve in the Illinois House of Representatives, Larry McKeon; and

**WHEREAS**, Leader Harris, similar to his predecessor, served as openly gay and was open about being HIV-positive and fought relentlessly for the rights of LGBTQ+ people and those living with HIV; and

**WHEREAS**, he has dedicated his career to advocating for mental health and substance abuse issues, addressing the needs of Illinois's homeless and at-risk youth, comprehensive breast cancer services, marriage equality, trans issues, protecting people with disabilities, nursing home quality, and affordable, accessible healthcare; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, Leader Harris committed his whole self to serving as the lead sponsor and passing the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act which secured marriage equality in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, he served as the chief budgeteer for many years in the Illinois House of Representatives and was critical to passing budgets during his time in the House; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, Leader Harris was named House Majority Leader becoming the first LGTBQ+

person to serve in Illinois Legislative Leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, Leader Harris has been recognized with awards by countless non-profit and social service organizations and serves on the Honorary Boards of Interfaith Ministry for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Apna Ghar Domestic Violence Shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County and the Cook County Board of Commissioners have had the honor of working with Majority Leader Harris and he has been a reliable, committed public servant for the people of Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, Leader Harris is an enthusiast of celebrating national holidays and observances and it is only fitting that he himself has now earned an honorary holiday dedicated to him and his service commemorated on his birthday; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor Illinois State Representative and House Majority Leader Greg Harris of the 13th District for his commitment to public service by declaring June 5th as Illinois State Representative and House Majority Leader Greg Harris Day in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this resolution are presented to State Representative and House Majority Leader Greg Harris.

[22-3964](#)

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING BUDDY BEAR CAR WASH 50TH YEAR OF BEING IN BUSINESS**

**WHEREAS**, the De Geratto family migrated to the United States of America in the late 1800s; and

**WHEREAS**, the De Geratto's lived at 207 North Menard, Chicago, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, it all began with Phillip De Geratto I, in the 1950s opening and operating his first grocery store, "Big Bear Foods," located at 5007 West Chicago Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, Phillip De Geratto I, would later open two other Big Bear Foods on the west side of Chicago with his son, Phillip De Geratto II, who renamed the stores "Buddy Bear Food Centers," and adopted the motto, "People Who Care, Shop Buddy Bear"; and

**WHEREAS**, during the Chicago riots in 1968, the Buddy Bear Food Centers on Chicago Avenue was destroyed; and eventually the two remaining Buddy Bear Food Centers were closed. Phillip De Geratto I, retired from the grocery business and later died in 1979; and

**WHEREAS**, Phillip De Geratto II (Buddy) and Phillip De Geratto III inherited their father and grandfather's entrepreneurial spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, Phillip De Geratto I, and II, demolished the Robert Hall Department Store, located at 3940 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois. The site became the home of the first largest, automatic, state-of-the-art "Buddy Bear Car Wash" in 1972; and the motto changed to meet the new business, "People Who Care, Wash at Buddy Bear"; and

**WHEREAS**, Phillip De Geratto II operated the Buddy Bear Car Wash with his son Phil De Geratto III, until his death in 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, Phillip De Geratto III has taken on a legacy of building thriving businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, Buddy Bear Car Wash would hire community residents at competitive compensation and benefits, generate traffic for other retail businesses, and put long vacant properties back on the tax rolls; and

**WHEREAS**, the first Buddy Bear Car Wash location underwent a \$500,000 renovation to meet the new standards of the other Buddy Bear car washes; and

**WHEREAS**, Buddy Bear Car Wash has 16 locations throughout Chicago and Cook County suburban communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Buddy Bear Car Wash in 2022 marks 50 years of service, growth, and commitment to being a good neighbor and employer; and

**WHEREAS**, three generations of the De Geratto family have claimed the west side of Chicago as home for their retail business; and

**WHEREAS**, June 16, 2022, is proclaimed as Buddy Bear's Day of Appreciation; 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 does hereby honor and celebrate 50 Years of the De Geratto family contribution and bettering the lives of all those in Cook County, Illinois; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Proclamation be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to **the De Geratto**

family.

[22-3965](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION

### HONORING RAE LEWIS-THORNTON, AUTHOR

**WHEREAS**, Rae Lewis-Thornton is an ordained Minister, Emmy Award winning AIDS activist and renowned Social Justice Advocate, Author, Award Winning Blogger, Social Media Expert, Jewelry Designer and Tea Connoisseur. RLT has been living with HIV for 38 years and AIDS for 30; and

**WHEREAS**, Rae received national acclaim for her story of living with HIV/AIDS in a cover story Facing AIDS, for *Essence* magazine December 1994 issue. With this cover story, Rae is credited with changing the face of HIV/AIDS for Black women in America. Rae received the National Association of Black Journalists Award Second place in print for Facing AIDS. The *Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture* has requested to catalogue her groundbreaking *Essence* magazine cover; and

**WHEREAS**, Rae has published three books: *Unprotected: A Memoir*, *The Politics of Respectability* and *Amazing Grace Letters Along My Journey* and has been featured in countless magazines and National news, radio and talk shows, such as, CNN, Nightline, The Oprah Winfrey Show, HLN, BET, NPR, WGN, Glamour, O-The Oprah Magazine, Woman's Day, Essence, Jet, Ebony, Emerge, Black Excellence, Heart and Soul, Poz and The Crisis, as well as many newspaper outlets, including The Washington Post, The Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-times, to name a few; and

**WHEREAS**, RLT has become a pioneer in social media as a way to educate and challenge stigma around HIV/AIDS and to promote issues of health and wellness. Her integrated use of social media has gained her national acclaim. She was featured on BET News, and in a cover story for the Chicago Tribune, which was picked up by the Associated Press on her savvy use of social media. RLT's award winning blog Diva Living with AIDS has had unprecedented success. She has received the following Social Media awards, CBS Most Valuable Blogger in Health and Wellness, The British Academy of Tweet Award in Public Service, Weblog Award in Health and Wellness, and named Top Ten Social Makers in HIV/AIDS by ShareCare; and

**WHEREAS**, Rae Lewis-Thornton has traveled worldwide in an unending crusade in the fight against HIV/AIDS and has lectured extensively throughout the United States as a feature speaker for college, universities, non-for-profit, churches, and cooperate organizations. The following list is a brief overview of Rae's speaking experience. She has spoken at universities such as, Stanford University, Yale University, Spelman College, Howard University, Duke University, Florida A&M University, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois and the University of Mississippi and the list goes on. She has also spoken for countless national organizations, such as the Inks, Inc., Jack and Jill, Inc., The National Association of Black Journalists, the NAACP, SCLC and all of the African American Black

Sororities and Fraternities nation-wide. She has been featured in countless cities for HIV/AIDS service and prevention organizations across the country. She has conducted HIV/AIDS staff trainings at Humana Health Care, AT & T, Commonwealth Edison, Near North Health Clinics, and Walgreens; and

**WHEREAS**, Rae Lewis-Thornton graduated Cum Laude from Northeastern Illinois University. She began her master's in political science at the University of Illinois-Chicago, two classes from graduating; she developed full-blown AIDS and quit school because of her health. Ten years later, alive and moving forward in spite of AIDS, Rae attended McCormick Theological Seminary on a Merit Scholarship and earned a Master of Divinity Degree. Rae received the Arthur Hayes Fellowship in Church History from McCormick upon graduating. Rae worked on her PhD in Church History at the Lutheran School of Theology-Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Rae revied an Emmy Award-for Outstanding Feature Series in Hard News -Living with AIDS WBBM-CBS Chicago series, the Cardinal Bernardin Communication Award-Outstanding Feature Series in Hard News-Living with AIDS WBBM-CBS Chicago, and the Illinois Associated Press Broadcasters Association Award: Second place for Best Continuing Series, *Living With AIDS*. She also received, the Distinguished Alumnae Award from her alma mater Northeastern Illinois University in 2011, Scroll of Merit Award-National Medical Association, Achievement Award- The Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, Community Service Award- National Association of Black Journalist, Community Service Award -National Association of Black Social Workers, as well as, countless other awards for her work around HIV/AIDS. She continues to use her life and story to enrich the lives of others; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to Rae's motivational speaking career, she was on her way to a promising political organizing career, having served as Senator Carol Mosley Braun's 1992 Senatorial Campaign Advance Coordinator, Illinois State Youth Coordinator for the 1988 Dukakis Presidential Campaign and National Youth Director for Jesse Jackson's 1984 and 1988 Presidential Campaigns; however, Rae retired in 1993 due to her health;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor and congratulate Rae Lewis-Thornton on her life-long success and highlight that Rae Lewis-Thornton is the first African American female to tell her story of living with AIDS in a national publication at the height of the AIDS pandemic in the United States and changed the dialogue around who became infected with HIV; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and a suitable copy be presented to Rae Lewis-Thornton as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[22-3968](#)

**Sponsored by:** LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF STEPHEN W. BAKER**

**WHEREAS**, Stephen W. Baker, a retired assistant Cook County Public Defender, passed away June 10, 2022, in Park Ridge, Illinois. He was a resident of Des Plaines, Illinois. Steve was born Oct. 5, 1952, in Harvey, Illinois, to Josephine (Garfield) and Walter H. Baker. He grew up in Hazel Crest, Illinois, and attended Western Illinois University; and

**WHEREAS**, Steve earned his J.D. in 1978 from Loyola University Law School, Chicago, and dedicated his life to working in and reforming the criminal justice system. He began his career as a prosecutor working for the Rock Island State's Attorney after he was admitted to the bar; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1987, he became a deputy public defender with the DuPage County, eventually becoming the DuPage County Public Defender in 1995 where he served until 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, Steve had an excellent reputation as a trial attorney and continued practicing until 2019 when he retired from the Office of the Cook County Public Defender; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to his litigation responsibilities, Steve served as the legislative liaison from 2004 to 2019 for the Cook County Public Defender to the Illinois House and Senate promoting legislation that would improve the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems. Steve also served on the Board of Directors of the Office of the State Appellate Defender; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, Steve was honored as the first recipient of the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers "The Promotion of Social Justice Award." The announcement from IACDL notes, "A lawyer since 1978, Stephen W. Baker has served the Illinois criminal defense community for decades both in the courtrooms - as an Assistant Public Defender, as the Public Defender of DuPage County, and in the halls of the Illinois Legislature. He worked vigorously for groups such as the Cook County Public Defender's Office, the Illinois Public Defender Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, and the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Steve fought tirelessly for years against an unending tide of efforts to increase sentences, expand the scope of Illinois criminal laws, shrink our civil liberties, and keep the death penalty. His efforts merit his selection as the first recipient of IACDL's Promotion of Social Justice Award;" and

**WHEREAS**, Steve was predeceased by his parents and his wife, Joy E. Mason-Baker. He loved playing golf, fishing, and being with family. He is survived by his sister, Susan (Michael) Schumer of Mt. Prospect and his nephews Peter Schumer (Mary Mitchell) of New York state and Christopher (Catherine Ro) Schumer; and grand-nephew Ben Schumer and grand-niece Emma Schumer, of Chicago. Steve leaves



behind many friends and family members who remember him dearly.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, honors the life and work of Stephen W. Baker and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions he 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 same be tendered to the family of Stephen W. Baker.

[22-3969](#)

**Sponsored by:** DENNIS DEER and BILL LOWRY, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNIZING JUNE AS GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Awareness is the knowledge or perception of a situation or Fact, and it is a fact that gun violence continues to be an issue in Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been an increase in gun related violence in Cook County compared to the decrease in numbers over the past five years; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the Cook County Medical Examiner's office In 2021, 88 percent of homicide deaths were male. there have been 1,009 homicides, of which 927 of which were gun-related, 777 of those homicides were in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2022 there has been an increase in gun violence. Statistics from the Cook County Medical Examiner's office states that, out of all the homicides reported in Cook County 302 of them were gun related. Close to 90 percent of homicides are a result of gunshot wounds and most of these deaths occur on the south and west sides of Chicago. More than 95 percent of the deaths are in communities of color, 80 percent are African American, over 15 percent are Latino. Overwhelmingly, men and boys are the victims of gun homicide-while women and girls make up 14 percent of these gun deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, since the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution Declaring Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis we have seen an increase in the violence and it is understood that prevention is an effective way to reduce gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Government, through the American Rescue Plan Act dollars has committed \$65 million dollars over the next three years, in gun violence prevention and reduction programs through the Justice Advisory Council.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, We established June as Gun Violence Prevention Awareness Month in Cook County. Where Cook County will encourage other Local, State, and National entities to recognize necessity to reduce gun violence and promote gun violence prevention awareness; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, We establish June 30th as Gun Violence Prevention Awareness Day in Cook County, and that Cook County Government recognizes the color orange as the color for gun violence prevention awareness month.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County Board hereby supports the efforts to address gun violence throughout Cook County and promote Gun Violence Prevention Awareness Month

[22-3979](#)

**Sponsored by:** BILL LOWRY, DENNIS DEER, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President) and BRANDON JOHNSON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**PASTOR JOHN F. HARRELL  
FOUNDER, PRESIDENT, AND CEO OF BLACK MEN UNITED FOUNDATION**

**WHEREAS**, Pastor John F. Harrell was born April 11, 1971 on Easter Sunday in Chicago, Il to Francine and Jerry Harrell. He is the great nephew of Nancy B. Jefferson who is considered the “Mother Theresa of the Westside” of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 1989, Pastor Harrell graduated from John Marshall Metro high school. In 1991, Pastor Harrell enlisted in the Army National Guard and completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and his Advanced Individual Training at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Harrell attended Lakeland College in 2001 receiving a Associates Degree in Commercial Custodial Maintenance. He later received his Bachelors of Biblical Studies in 2005 and Masters in Pastoral Counseling in 2007 at The Midwest Theological Institute. That same year he received an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity from Midwest Theological Institute; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Harrell entered into the ministry in 1995 under the mentorship of Pastor Marvin E. Wiley of Rock Of Ages Baptist Church in Maywood, IL. On December 23, 1999, he fully came into his calling and was appointed to be the Youth Pastor under the leadership of Reverend Charles E. Robinson at the Holy Starlight M.B.C. in the North Lawndale Community. In July of 2007 Pastor Harrell was appointed his first pastoral placement as Pastor of Gracious Beginnings Baptist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2012, Pastor Harrell met and married the love of his life Rahshedah Harrell. They have a beautiful blended family with a total of 9 children and 2 grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, While Pastor Harrell was answering his spiritual calling, he was also dedicating time into nationwide service. In August 2005, Pastor Harrell led his first nationwide outreach when he coordinated

relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina survivors and provided \$6 Million in relief aid to New Orleans. The following month, Pastor Harrell continued his efforts and sent \$4 Million in relief aid to Hurricane Rita survivors in Tallahassee, FL. In April 2014 sent \$600,000 in Tornado relief to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and August 2015 sent 120 pallets of water to Flint, Michigan to combat the water crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 11, 2016, Pastor Harrell was selected to succeed civil rights icon and trailblazer, Bishop Dr. Claude Porter, where he became the second Pastor at Proviso M.B.C. in Maywood IL in Proviso Township.

**WHEREAS**, in March of 2020 Pastor Harrell cofounded The Black Men United Foundation where he currently serves as President and CEO. Black Men United's mission is to impact socioeconomic and cultural change in urban communities through addressing food insecurities, providing community programming to reduce gun violence, and employment opportunities through various work force development programs and partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Men United currently has 37 Chapters in 37 states. Since it's founding, Black Men United has donated over \$10 million in supplies and serviced over 387,000 people in the Chicagoland area. Nationally, Black Men United has served 12 million people and donated \$3.6 million in fresh produce during the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Harrell also serves as special assistant to Bishop Dr. Claude Porter, the President of P.L.C.C.A. an agency that serves over 30 need base programs with an operating budget of over \$9 Million dollars and property valued at \$17 Million. Serving over 100,000 people annually with services to 38 municipalities and the Chicago Metropolitan area; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Harrell is the Midwest Region Coordinator for Concessions/ Exhibits / Corporate sponsorship for the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc. and was named Distinguished Gentlemen of Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Harrell sits on several boards including Triton College Foundation, Ambassadorship for World Vision, Southern Baptist's of Illinois State Credentials Committee, Woodlake Hospital, and The Loretto Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, April 11, 2020, Pastor felt an urge to return to his roots on the Westside of Chicago, so he accepted another Pastorate at New Hope M.B.C.; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Harrell believes his purpose is to serve and prides himself on the work he has done. His favorite scripture depicts his life view "Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many," Mathew 20:28; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Harrell was honored due to his significant contribution serving the city of Chicago; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL LOWRY, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER of the 3rd DISTRICT, DENNIS DEER, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER of the 2nd DISTRICT, AND BRANDON JOHNSON, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER of the 1st DISTRICT** do hereby stand, and salute the presentation of this prestigious award to Pastor John Harrell; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this Resolution will be presented to Pastor Harrell and his family; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** a copy of this Resolution will be filed within the **Office of Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry 3rd District, Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer 2nd District, and Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson 1st District.**

[22-3989](#)

**Sponsored by:** LUIS ARROYO JR, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **IN GRATITUDE TO DIANE LIMAS FOR HER INCALCULABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO COOK COUNTY'S COMMUNITIES AND THEIR RESIDENTS**

**WHEREAS,** Diane Limas, a daughter of immigrants in a family of 12, grew up in Humboldt Park, witness to her parents struggle to find and keep affordable rental housing in the neighborhood, which made her understand, at that time, that the City was not well-suited for low-income families; and

**WHEREAS,** Diane Limas worked at the Chicago Election Board for 33 years subsequently taking her childhood experiences and catalyzing her passion for service by co-founding the former Albany Park Neighborhood Council, now known as Communities United; and

**WHEREAS,** Diane Limas has dedicated herself to working on housing issues for over 17 years, engaging with elected officials to approve and implement fair and just housing policies; and

**WHEREAS,** through her "boots on the ground" community involvement, she has collaborated with housing leaders and coalitions to approve critical housing policies in Chicago including the Affordable Requirements Ordinance; the Sweet Home Chicago, which allowed TIF money to be used towards affordable housing; and the Keep Chicago Renting Ordinance, which protects tenants in foreclosed rental property; and

**WHEREAS,** Diane Limas was also key in the development of Renters Organizing Ourselves To Stay (ROOTS) which works to prevent the displacement of low-income families through the development of a model to preserve affordable housing in neighborhoods across Chicago, a program that successfully put

over 400 units in the preservation pipeline to become long-term affordable units, with a new 50-unit affordable housing development soon to be completed in Albany Park; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, Diane was given the Chicagoan of the Year award by Chicago Magazine for her housing work. She was also awarded the Senior Citizen of the Year award by Mayor Rahm Emmanuel in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, at the County and State levels, Diane Limas' leadership and advocacy has helped pave the way to increase access to quality healthcare to countless low-income families; and

**WHEREAS**, Diane's leadership played a crucial role in co-convening the Healthy Communities Cook County coalition, helping lead advocacy for the creation of a program that increases healthcare access to an estimated 100,000 uninsured Cook County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past two years, Diane helped found the Chicago Flats Initiative in partnership with Neighborhood Housing Services and Enterprise Community Partners to preserve affordable housing of 2-4 flats across the City and County; and

**WHEREAS**, Diane has worked and advocated with Illinois Development and Housing Authority to assure that 2-4-unit homeowners and renters were not forgotten in housing relief programs during the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Diane presently serves on the Cook County Land Bank Board of Directors and is Board Vice- President of Communities United; and

**WHEREAS**, Diane's life-long commitment to create a just and inclusive City, County and State has inspired thousands of community members and young people to follow her steps and become active leaders in their communities to continue to shape a better future for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board President and Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize the incalculable contributions Diane Limas has made to developing more inclusive communities, affordable housing and healthier communities; and extend their gratitude for her life-long commitment to the residents of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Diane Limas in commemoration of this joyous occasion.

[22-3998](#)

**Sponsored by:** KEVIN B. MORRISON and TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**PROCLAIMING PRIDE MONTH IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) Pride Month is celebrated each year in the month of June; and

**WHEREAS**, Pride Month was initially inspired by the 1969 Stonewall Uprising and works to achieve equal justice and opportunity for LGBTQIA+ Americans, as well as recognize the impact that LGBTQIA+ individuals have had on society locally, nationally, and internationally, and

**WHEREAS**, the Stonewall Riots were a series of demonstrations in which members of the LGBTQIA+ community protested police raids and harassment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stonewall Riots marked the beginning of the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement although previous demonstrations and organizing efforts amongst the LGBTQIA+ community preceded; and

**WHEREAS**, the LGBTQIA+ movement and its allies have fought hard to give the community the right to marry, to start families, to fight discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes the work still continues, and

**WHEREAS**, the current political environment nationwide had created very real danger for the LGBTQIA+ community and Cook County must continue to fight to affirm and welcome this community including by proudly celebrating Pride Month, and

**WHEREAS**, the annual Chicago Pride Parade is now iconic and one of the largest Pride events in the country in which residents throughout Cook County and the nation have the opportunity to celebrate and stand as one with the LGBTQIA+ community, their families, and friends; and

**WHEREAS**, the LGBTQIA+ community is an important contributor to the diverse and vibrant communities across Cook County; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that** the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, hereby proclaim the month of June 2022 to be PRIDE MONTH IN COOK COUNTY; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby recommit to strengthening the advancement of equality for the LGBTQIA+ community of Cook County.

[22-4000](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING THE LIFE OF JOEL FARBER**

**WHEREAS**, Joel (Joey) Farber, cherished son of the late Molly and Harry Farber, died on May 31, 2022. Joey was larger than life and lived his life to the maximum. He loved being the center of attention and telling jokes. He made friends everywhere. He was always smiling and greeting people, approaching complete strangers and with his largest voice and biggest smile, greeted them; and

**WHEREAS**, Joey loved Skokie where he lived in his home on Enfield for almost 50 years. But he also loved the commotion of Chicago. Whenever friends dropped him off at home after dark, he'd say, "it's too quiet." Then he'd yell at the top of his lungs, "SHOTS FIRED," and laugh; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 70's his daughter Shari began having trouble moving. Joel and his wife, Harriett, took Shari to over 70 doctors trying to get a diagnosis. They finally met a doctor in the Bronx who diagnosed her condition: Dystonia. When the doctor indicated that there was no support group or foundation where they could learn more, he gave them notecards with the names of all the afflicted. Joel and Harriett created the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF). Today this organization supports the afflicted worldwide and is working to find a cure. Joey's lifelong mission was to find a cure for his daughter and everyone else; and

**WHEREAS**, nicknamed Skomish, for Skokie Commissioner, Joel served as Commissioner on the Skokie Park District. He helped create the Skokie Festival of Cultures (FOC) to celebrate the many cultures of people who live in Skokie. It is held annually at Oakton Park the third week of every May. Joel proudly carried the Israeli flag at the FOC opening ceremonies. He loved meeting people at each of the booths and tried to learn something about each of them. If he saw someone that he thought he could greet in their language he'd yell, for example, MABUHAY! The FOC always had a band and he took particular pleasure in announcing them. But it wouldn't be a simple announcement. He'd go on for 10 minutes talking about the band, warming the audience up with jokes; and

**WHEREAS**, Joel used to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House to help feed dinner. He would arrive a couple hours ahead of time. While Joey loved to eat, he couldn't stand to look at raw food. He would pace back and forth, greeting families as they arrived, waiting for the time to announce dinner. When it was time he would take the mic and say, "Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a wonderful dinner for you this evening. We are serving delectable fried chicken, homemade macaroni and cheese, a wonderful salad..." on and on until someone turned off the mike; and

**WHEREAS**, Joel made Marco Island, Florida his second home for 40 years. He bought a timeshare at the Charter Club in 1982 and served as Board Member for many years. He loved the sandy beaches,

warm gulf waters, inviting pool, and entertainment. Jeanie, the proprietor of Kay's on the Beach would put on a weekly fashion show and asked for volunteers. Joel would always put on a dress and strut his stuff. He loved the attention. He also liked getting the mic from Jeanie and taking over the announcing. On Tuesdays he was the announcer for the ice cream social by the pool. Joey was never short of words. If you were his friend, and everyone was, you'd get an extra scoop; and

**WHEREAS**, Joel remained his true self to the end. While in hospice the nurses would ask him if he was comfortable. He'd reply, "I make a living. Joel was predeceased by his wife Harriett; his daughter Shari Farber Tritt (late Ira); and his parents, Molly and Harry Farber. He is survived by his daughter Beth Farber (Steve Laser).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** , that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, honors the life and work of Joel Farber and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions he 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 same be tendered to the family of Joel Farber.