



**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, May 12, 2022, 10:00 AM**

[22-2791](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK - MAY 21-27, 2022**

**WHEREAS**, National Safe Boating week will be held from May 21, 2022 - May 27, 2022, as a reminder to all boaters to be mindful of the important life-saving tips for the boating season; and

**WHEREAS**, More than 100 million Americans, will take to the Great Lakes, Rivers, and other bodies of water from coast to coast to enjoy recreational boating activity; and

**WHEREAS**, The Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents and that wearing a life jacket could prevent nearly 86 percent of boating fatalities; and

**WHEREAS**, A significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and

**WHEREAS**, On average, 650 people die each year in boating related accidents in the U.S.; 75 percent of these are fatalities caused by drowning; and

**WHEREAS**, A vast majority of accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

**WHEREAS**, During National Safe Boating week, the U. S. Coast Guard and its federal, state, and local safe boating partners encourage all boaters to explore and enjoy America's beautiful waters responsibly, practice safe boating and wear a life jacket at all times while boating; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby support the goals of the Safe Boating Campaign and Proclaim May 21-27, 2022, as National Safe Boating Week and promote safe boating.

[22-2979](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY "TONY" MOCKUS, SR.**

**WHEREAS, WHEREAS**, Anthony, "Tony" Mockus, Sr. was a Chicago actor and director of considerable note. His career spanned decades and included appearances on stage, screen, and television.

He worked with countless great performers including Henry Fonda, Elizabeth Montgomery, Cloris Leachman, Robert De Niro, and Kevin Costner. He died on April 1, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, Tony was born in St. Anthony's Hospital on St. Anthony's Feast Day. His family belonged to St. Anthony's Parish. This led to a lifelong devotion to St. Anthony. He attended St. Ignatius High School. His acting career began in high school when he joined the Summer Stock at Lake Geneva during the summer breaks. He was awarded a 4-year scholarship to Fordham University in New York but went to Loyola so that he could remain in Chicago to care for his mother Veronica Mockus and grandmother. He performed with the Uptown Players and was accepted for a role in the traveling Broadway show *Mr. Roberts* when he was 18 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, Tony was a devout Catholic his entire life. His faith was reinforced when, while serving in the U.S. military in Korea, he was seriously injured while attempting to disarm an exposed mine. He required multiple operations to remove the shrapnel, and to repair aneurisms resulting from the shrapnel injuries. After his service in the military and the recovery from his injury, he was accepted back into the cast of *Mr. Roberts*. He moved for a time to New York where he was represented by the Maynard Morris agency through which much of his television work came; and

**WHEREAS**, Tony returned to Chicago and met his wife, Mary Lou (nee Buckley) while performing with the ensemble company at the Studebaker Theater. They were married in 1958 and raised their two children, actor Tony, Jr. and Judy (Bill) Hooper, in Evanston, Illinois. In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his five grandchildren, Maximilian, Veronica, Nicholas, Jack, and Lana; and

**WHEREAS**, Tony is best known for his roles as the judge in *The Untouchables* (1987), and as Chief John Fitzgerald in *Backdraft* (1991), and as Mayor Rutledge in the TV series *Boss* (2011-2012). Other movie credits include *Finney* (1969), *The Enemy* (1974), *She's Having a Baby* (1988), *Caddyshack II* (1988), *The Homecoming* (1996), *Charming Billy* (1999), *Herman U.S.A.* (2001); and

**WHEREAS**, Tony had significant success on the stage as well, performing regularly with Cook County theater groups. He was nominated for Joseph Jefferson Awards for his performances in *Plaza Suite* (1975) at the Athenaeum Theater, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* at the Goodman Theater (1975), *Our Town* at the Goodman Theater (1976), *George Jean Nathan in Review* at the Goodman Stage II Theater (1977), *God's Man in Texas* at the Northlight Theatre (2000), and *On Golden Pond* at the Drury Lane Theatre (2003); and

**WHEREAS**, his television credits include *Appointment with Destiny* (1971), *One in a Million: the Ron LeFlore Story* (1978), *Hawaiian Heat* (1984), *21 Jump Street* (1987), *Werewolf* (1987), *Cross of Fire* (1989), *Where Pigeons Go to Die* (1990), *The Untouchables* (1994), *The Patron Saint of Liars* (1998), and *Chicago Fire: Better to Lie* (2013); and

**WHEREAS**, Tony and his son shared the stage in *Sleuth*, performed in 2003 at the Kathleen Mullady Theatre at Loyola University. Tony Sr. portrayed Andrew Wyke, an aging mystery novelist with a grudge

against a younger man, Milo Tindle, portrayed by Tony Jr. The plot revolves around Tindle's liaison with Wyke's wife, which so infuriated the cuckolded writer that he hatches a plot for revenge that begins with theft and fraud but goes much further than intended. Father and son had previously worked together in *Do Patent Leather Shoes Really Shine Up?* the son's first professional play out of college. Tony Sr. also directed Tony Jr. in the 1983 production of Goodman's perennial show, *Christmas Carol*; and

**WHEREAS**, Tony worked with many Cook County theater groups, including Northlight in Skokie and the Goodman Theater. As both an actor and director, he was a great advocate for Chicago Theaters and was a mentor to many Cook County aspiring actors and residents; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Joe Morris of the Heartland Institute, Tony Mockus was an active and caring citizen, deeply devoted to the cause of American liberty. He was a stalwart of the Conservative Movement in the Chicago area. He was a long-time member and/or supporter of organizations as varied as Catholic Citizens of Illinois, The Heartland Institute, Hillsdale College, the Lincoln Legal Foundation, Toward Tradition, and the United Republican Fund of Illinois. His faith inspired deep involvement in many interfaith activities, including a long and productive commitment to Jewish-Christian dialogue.

**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 Anthony "Tony" Mockus, Sr. 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 Anthony "Tony" Mockus, Sr.

[22-3120](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF KAREN DANCZAK LYONS**

**WHEREAS**, the Evanston Public Library has announced that Karen Danczak Lyons will step down as Executive Director on June 17, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Danczak Lyons graduated from Loyola University in Chicago with a bachelor's degree in 1981 and holds a Master of Library Science degree from Dominican University. Danczak Lyons joined the Evanston library ten years ago, after spending 19 years with the Chicago Public Library system; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure, the Evanston Public Library adopted a new vision and business model for the library that goes beyond the walls of library buildings and book stacks to engage and resource residents where they live and gather. That vision led to several new initiatives for the library: expanding

and bringing new, innovative services to Evanston; lending technology like Wi-Fi hotspots and job search tech kits to bridge the digital divide; expanding virtual programming and digital offerings in response to the pandemic and the community's changing needs; and hiring a library social worker to connect the city's most vulnerable residents to community resources; and

**WHEREAS, WHEREAS,** the library also concentrated on refocusing its work and decision-making processes through an equity lens. The library adopted an equity statement and transitioning policy as declarations of the library's values. As part of the equity focus, a new branch opened in the Robert Crown Community Center with an emphasis on programming for underserved residents and Spanish-speaking patrons. Other initiatives included evaluating options for a branch in the Fifth Ward, developing a more diverse talent pipeline of librarians with tuition reimbursement program, new positions designed to engage underrepresented communities, and eliminating overdue fines to reduce barriers to access; and

**WHEREAS,** Danczak Lyons said she is proud of the work the library has done to strengthen partnerships throughout the Evanston community and engage residents more deeply through community listening sessions and an asset-based community development model; and

**WHEREAS,** "Karen has been an extraordinary and visionary leader for the Evanston Public Library, and she has made a lasting impact on our community through her decade of service," said Interim Evanston City Manager Kelley Gandurski

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, honors the work and contributions of Karen Danczak Lyons, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions she 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 Karen Danczak Lyons and to the Evanston Township Public Library.

[22-3121](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF BENITA PULEO**

**WHEREAS,** after many years of service, Benita Puleo will retire from the Cook County Assessor's office; and

**WHEREAS,** Benita came to the United States from the Philippines as a nurse in 1979. She began working at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston. Benita met her future husband, Sam Paleo, Sr., in 1980 when he was hospitalized at St. Francis and she was his night nurse. He describes pursuing her for six months

before she agreed to go out on a date. They were married in 1983 and raised their three children: Sam Jr., Joseph, and Antonette. in Niles, Illinois. They now have two grandchildren, Isabella, and Evan Puleo; and

**WHEREAS**, Benita became a U.S. citizen in 1987 and fully embraced her new country. She and Sam were regulars at the Fourth of July parades, Benita always wearing her U.S flag shirt. They were regular volunteers for the Democratic Party Committeewoman Laura Murphy and helped organize the coffee and bingo nights; and

**WHEREAS**, Benita worked at St. Francis for fifteen years before taking a job in the Morton Grove School District working with children with autism; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, Benita switched careers and took a job with the Cook County Assessor's Office. She initially worked in community outreach organizing numerous meetings in the community before being assigned to work in the office at the Cook County Courthouse in Skokie; and

**WHEREAS**, as in her previous work, Benita was the ultimate professional, working tirelessly to address the concerns and questions of those who visited the Cook County Assessor's office at the Skokie courthouse. Her high standards of professionalism were not limited to assisting people with their issue. She dedicated herself to doing so in a courteous and kind manner. Her exemplary kindness and dedication made her an exceptional ambassador for both the Assessor's office and government service in general.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, honors the work and contributions of Benita Puleo, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions she 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 Benita Puleo.

[22-3260](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING CHRISTIANNA GRAY**

**WHEREAS**, Christianna Gray is 11 years old and a 6th grade student at Calvin Christian School, the youngest of 3 siblings, and resides in Chicago's south suburbs with her family; and

**WHEREAS**, at just 9 months old, Christianna began speaking complete sentences and learned to read over 150 words by the time she was 1 year old; and

**WHEREAS**, Christianna is known to her family and friends as being extremely vibrant, friendly, smart,

compassionate, and creative; and

**WHEREAS**, Christianna has found a love for public speaking, singing, dancing, and acting and is often asked to speak at local public and private schools, churches, and organizations such as Rainbow PUSH Coalition; and

**WHEREAS**, Christianna's speeches include Being Black in the Workplace, by Anonymous Author & I Am The Black Child by Michael Wynn, I Sued the School System by Prince E.A., Ain't I A Woman by Sojourner Truth, and Everybody dies but not everybody lives, by Prince E.A., which can be found on YouTube; and

**WHEREAS**, Christianna's creativity and intelligence led her to develop a youth vocabulary enrichment card game called Echo Talk and beauty product line through her company Butterfly B Cosmetics; and

**WHEREAS**, Christianna recently recited one of her original poems at an event attended by the President of Tennessee State University, who was so impressed with this amazing young lady's talent and poise that she offered her a 4-year scholarship to the University on the spot; and

**WHEREAS**, Christianna is an aspiring author, lawyer, real estate entrepreneur, motivational speaker, homeless advocate, and future United States President; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of her remarkable accomplishments at such a young age, this Honorable Body wishes to honor and celebrate Christianna Gray and to wish her continued success in her many endeavors;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate and honor Christianna Gray on her many accomplishments and looks forward to her future successes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy be presented to Christianna Gray as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[22-3263](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **SALUTING REVEREND DR. EDDIE LENWOOD KNOX JR. AS A LIFELONG GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT**

**WHEREAS**, since 1947 Reverend Dr. Eddie Lenwood Knox Jr. was a Christian, who truly loved the Lord. Eddie began his lifelong service in Chicago, Illinois and departed on April 11, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Eddie was born on September 28, 1947, and was baptized as a child at Good Shepherd Congregational Church. In his early teens he joined Crerar Memorial Presbyterian with his family, and after graduating from Seminary, became the Pastor of Pullman Presbyterian Church. That part of his Christian Journey lasted over 32 years. Prior to his retirement in December 2019, Eddie was bestowed the title of Pastor Emeritus, Pullman Presbyterian Church; and

**WHEREAS**, Eddie's education began at Betsy Ross Elementary and Lewis Champlain Elementary Schools. Eddie's early childhood scholarly achievements provided him entrance into Tilden Tech High School. Following his graduation, he continued his quest for higher learning and attended Southeast City College, University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University, Carbondale where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing; and

**WHEREAS**, Eddie worked as a Supervisor & Marketing Representative for Amoco Oil Co.; Eddie enjoyed his job at Amoco, but still had a yearning in his heart that wouldn't let go. In 1982, Eddie accepted God's call and enrolled into McCormick Theological Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity in 1985 and later his Doctor of Divinity in 1992. He always had a passion for serving God. While a student, he worked as an assistant to the Minister at Crerar Memorial Presbyterian Church before becoming an ordained pastor on April 27, 1987; and

**WHEREAS**, immediately after becoming designated Pastor of Pullman Presbyterian; he hit the ground running to serve his congregation and community. He taught everyone that with God you can do anything but fail. Eddie believed in equality and would speak up, when needed. He supported and served as a pastoral counselor and board member for the Disabled Americans Rally for Equality and Developing Communities Projects. Eddie served as President for the Community Renewal Society for several years; and

**WHEREAS**, Eddie served on the Board of Trustees at McCormick Theological Seminary. Eddie was a Commissioner for the Synod of Lincoln Trails & the 199th General Assembly and moderator of the Chicago Presbytery Association Search Committee & the Evangelism Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, it was obvious Eddie thoroughly enjoyed serving God, he always had that Wonderful, Too Busy Serving God; But I'm Not Tired Yet Attitude; and

**WHEREAS**, the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners are pleased to honor the legacy of Reverend Dr. Eddie Lenwood Knox Jr., a great man who was always busy working for God until April 11, 2022 --- WELL DONE THY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT - SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND TAKE THY REST;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby offer its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and loved ones of Reverend Dr. Eddie Lenwood Jr.; and

**BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of

this Honorable Body and a suitable copy be presented to the family of Reverend Dr. Eddie Lenwood Knox Jr. so that his memory may be so honored and ever cherished.

[22-3264](#)

**Sponsored by:** PETER N. SILVESTRI, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**SUPPORTING THE VILLAGE OF ELMWOOD PARK'S EFFORTS TO CONSTRUCT A WEST GRAND AVENUE GRADE SEPARATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Elmwood Park, a thriving Cook County suburb in close proximity to the City of Chicago, comprises a community of nearly 25,000 residents and boasts first-class services and facilities, including a transportation network that serves the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the transportation infrastructure in Elmwood Park is dangerously impeded by the West Grand Avenue highway-railroad at-grade crossing and poses a significant safety hazard to the public at large due to the metrics of the crossing. West Grand Avenue is intersected by three Canadian Pacific rail tracks, which are also utilized by Metra and is the widest crossing in Illinois at 366 feet; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Grand Avenue intersection has been plagued with accidents, including injuries and fatalities, for decades. From 1956 to 2005, there were 45 crashes including 27 injuries and 7 fatalities. From 2014 through 2018, there were 36 recorded crashes. On November 23, 2005, the day before Thanksgiving when traffic is historically heavy, a Metra train collided with 6 vehicles that were stopped on the tracks and pushed these vehicles into secondary impacts with 12 other vehicles, injuring 10 people; and

**WHEREAS**, upon a National Transportation Safety Board investigation of the 2005 accident, the Board's sole recommendation to improve safety at the crossing was for the Governor of Illinois to "Require the Illinois Commerce Commission and the Illinois Department of Transportation to construct a grade separation in place of the West Grand Avenue grade crossing, and provide the necessary resources to effect this change"; and

**WHEREAS**, the safety quotient of the West Grand Avenue corridor, which currently carries more than 25,000 vehicles and 128 freight and commuter trains daily, will likely be further strained beyond acceptable metrics due to the proposed merger of Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) with Kansas City Southern (KCS) as noted in their Surface Transportation Board merger application of 2021. The application highlights increases in projected train traffic and longer trains of the Milwaukee District West Line/West Grand Avenue Corridor. The application also notes a minimum of 7.1 additional trains per day.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby urge Canadian Pacific Railway and Kansas City Southern to partner with Elmwood Park in the construction of the West Grand Avenue project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the CP and KCS provide financial assistance toward the existing shortfall, to further aid the Village of Elmwood Park in seeking and securing any other state/federal funding, and to work with the Village of Elmwood Park until the project reaches fruition so that the overarching and unrelenting safety concerns are entirely mitigated for the public at large.