



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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 9:00 AM

Issued on: 12/12/2025

[26-0380](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING DR. DOROTHY JEAN TILLMAN II

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we acknowledge the historic accomplishment of Dr. Dorothy Jean Tillman II, who has become the youngest member in nearly 100 years of the Delta Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tillman was officially inducted on November 1, 2025, as part of the "14 Phases of RHOyalty" torch class, demonstrating exceptional dedication, resilience, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Sigma Alumnae Chapter has a long-standing commitment to fostering academic excellence, cultural enrichment, and leadership development in our community, positively impacting countless lives; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., founded on November 12, 1922, at Butler University, strives to improve the quality of life for women and families through community service, scholarship, and sisterhood, with chapters across the globe; and

WHEREAS, this esteemed organization engages in vital community service initiatives, including Operation Big Bookbag, the Women's Wellness Initiative, Swim 1922, and Project CRADLE Care, addressing educational and health disparities, particularly within underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tillman's remarkable journey, from completing her doctoral degree in Integrated Behavioral Health at the age of 17 to leading programming through her Dorothy Jeanius STEAM Leadership Institute in Chicago and West Cape Town, South Africa, exemplifies her commitment to empowering youth and advocating for education in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners , do hereby recognize Dr. Dorothy Jean Tillman II for her significant achievement and unwavering dedication to service. We celebrate Dr. Tillman as a beacon of inspiration for future generations and commend the invaluable contributions of the Delta Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. to our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy be presented to Dr. Dorothy Jean Tillman II and her family as a token of our gratitude and deep appreciation.

[26-0379](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROBERT BLACKWELL SR.

WHEREAS, Cook County, Illinois, stands on the foundation of visionaries, innovators, and generous leaders whose courage has shaped industries, uplifted communities, and changed lives across the region; and

WHEREAS, Robert Blackwell Sr., born in Virginia and raised in a working-class Philadelphia family, demonstrated determination and brilliance from an early age, earning a football scholarship to Wichita State University before becoming an indelible presence in the Chicagoland area throughout his distinguished career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackwell broke barriers as one of the first Black salespeople hired by International Business Machines (IBM), rising from systems engineer to Director of IBM's Greater Chicago Consulting Services at a time when African Americans and other minorities rarely held such leadership roles; and

WHEREAS, throughout his 26-year tenure at IBM, and later as founder and CEO of Blackwell Consulting Services, Mr. Blackwell championed opportunity for the historically overlooked-including women and minorities-inviting them to demonstrate their talent, and actively mentoring and advancing professionals from all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackwell's influence extended beyond careers, helping individuals of every walk reach their full potential, offering sponsorship or support to all willing to rise, with many who went on to lead major companies or found successful ventures; and

WHEREAS, his daily actions embodied the principle that "love is a verb," reflecting generosity and wisdom that inspires the highest purpose of success: to uplift and serve others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackwell advanced Chicago's-and the region's-entrepreneurial spirit and economic opportunity, as reflected in his induction into the Chicago Area Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, his feature in The History Makers, and his leadership of Chicago's largest minority-owned consulting firm; and

WHEREAS, Robert Blackwell Sr. has left an enduring mark on Cook County, inspiring generations of leaders, entrepreneurs, and community members;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor and recognize the life, legacy, and lasting influence of Robert Blackwell Sr., and call upon all Cook County residents to learn from his example: to strive for success and, above all,

to help others benefit from our wisdom and kindness;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy be presented to Robert Blackwell Sr. and his family as a token of our gratitude and deep appreciation.

[26-0003](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF PHYLLIS A. WOODS FOR HER EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, Ms. Phyllis Woods introduced to the Cook County Government work force in 1997 as a temporary employee in the Bureau of Administration is retiring from Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woods in 1997 was offered and accepted a permanent position in the Bureau of Human Resources Labor Relations Division as an Administrative Assistant to the Special Assistant to the Cook County Board President; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woods earned her Degree of Associate in Applied Science with a Major in Paralegal and Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration with a Concentration in Management from Robert Morris University Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woods has provided over twenty-eight (28) years of dedicated public service to Cook County Government under the Administration of four (4) Cook County Board Presidents, starting as a temporary employee, administrative assistant, hearing officer, labor analyst, labor liaison officer, and ended her tenure as Senior Labor Relations Specialist; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woods has served as chief spokesperson in the local negotiation of many of the Office of the President and Cook County Health collective bargaining agreements between Cook County and various labor unions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woods has provided training to many Cook County managers and supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woods tenure in the Bureau of Human Resources Labor Division helped to guide and inspire the newest members on the labor team that were new to the field with her subject matter expertise and historical knowledge of the dispute resolution process to resolve complex labor issues, provide interpretation of contract provisions and County policies; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Woods leadership skills, training skills tireless efforts and achievements of remarkable

milestones have made a lasting impact on our employees and the County's many stakeholders; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on behalf of the President, the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the 5.2 million residents of Cook County expresses its deepest gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Phyllis A. Woods for her exceptional twenty-eight (28) years of service to Cook County, Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, and an official copy be presented to Ms. Phyllis A. Woods as a token of the Board's appreciation and recognition of her dedicated service to Cook County.

[26-0349](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON, 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, TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE HONORABLE DR. DENNIS DEER CONVERSATION LAB AT ENCLAVE ACADEMY

WHEREAS, Cook County recognizes the critical importance of high-quality, accessible continuing education environments for entrepreneurs, organizational leaders, educators, and community builders-psychologically safe spaces that foster innovation, collaboration, and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Dr. Dennis Deer (1972-2024) exemplified visionary leadership, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to advancing educational opportunity, civic engagement, and community well-being throughout Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Enclave Academy is a pacesetter not-for-profit microlearning community specializing in nonclinical cognitive psychology for the continual development of decision-critical metacognition skills; and

WHEREAS, Enclave Academy has established The Honorable Dr. Dennis Deer Conversation Lab to honor his extraordinary legacy as a Founding Faculty Member, thereby creating a dynamic space dedicated to dialogue, collaboration, innovation, and student empowerment; and

WHEREAS, the naming of the Conversation Lab in honor of Dr. Deer fittingly acknowledges his lifelong dedication to fostering inclusive, forward-looking educational experiences and his devoted service to the residents of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, this dedication stands as a living testament to the enduring value of investing in the intellectual, civic, and creative potential of adult thinker-doers, youth aspiring to leadership, and the broader

community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, Illinois, hereby posthumously honor the Honorable Dr. Dennis Deer and the Advisory Council of Enclave Academy for the dedication of the “Deer Conversation Lab,” and express their sincere appreciation for Dr. Deer’s years of service and contributions to education, community engagement, and the socioeconomic vitality of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this Resolution be tendered to Dr. Dennis Deer’s beloved wife, Barbara Deer, and their children, as well as to John R. Dallas, Jr., Founder and CEO of Enclave Academy, as official tokens of the County’s enduring gratitude and recognition.

[26-0012](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING WOORI TAEKWONDO & HAPKIDO ACADEMY

WHEREAS, “*Woori*” means “You and Me.” Woori Taekwondo & Hapkido Academy represents a community of martial artists united under the common goal of striving toward excellence in both martial arts and all aspects of life; and

WHEREAS, philanthropy holds a place of great importance in the Woori philosophy; and

WHEREAS, on **Saturday, November 15th, 2025**, Woori Taekwondo & Hapkido Academy will host its **12th Annual fundraising event** to benefit **St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital**, entitled “*Kick for the Cure*”; and

WHEREAS, Woori Taekwondo & Hapkido Academy is composed of highly motivated and exceptionally trained individuals dedicated to the development of character, self-discipline, and inner peace through the principles of integrity and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, over the past 14 years, Woori Taekwondo & Hapkido Academy has raised more than **\$180,000** to support **St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital** in its fight against childhood cancer; and

WHEREAS, **Grandmaster Kwanpil Kim** serves as the head of Woori Taekwondo & Hapkido Academy. This year, **Master Chris Kalinka** will be testing for his **5th Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo**, and **Master Keysean Bonds** will be testing for his **5th Degree Black Belt in Hapkido**, both achieving **Headmaster Level**. Additionally, **Instructor Chloe Foster** will be testing for her **4th Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo**, while **Instructors Lasierk Williams, Kevin Robinson, Casandra Evans, and Donald McGregory** will be testing for their **4th Degree Black Belts in**

Hapkido, achieving **Master Level**. Grandmaster Kwanpil Kim, along with the newly appointed Masters and Instructors, will lead the **500 Board Breaking Challenge** in support of the fight against cancer, joined by Woori students-including both Low Belts and Black Belts-who proudly participate in this noble cause; and

WHEREAS, all proceeds raised from the *“Kick for the Cure”* event will be donated directly to **St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners commend the instructors and students of **Woori Taekwondo & Hapkido Academy** for their remarkable commitment to community service and philanthropy through their annual fundraising effort, *“Kick for the Cure,”* benefiting **St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and that a suitable copy be presented to **Woori Taekwondo & Hapkido Academy** in recognition of its *“Kick for the Cure”* event held on **November 15th, 2025**.

[26-0011](#)

Sponsored by: TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING DIWALI AND RECOGNIZING THE INDIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL OF CHICAGO

“May the light of Diwali guide us toward compassion, justice, and unity - and may Cook County always be a place where every light shines.”

WHEREAS, Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is one of the most celebrated holidays around the world, observed by millions of people of Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist faiths; and

WHEREAS, Diwali symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance - reminding us all of the power of truth, unity, and renewal; and

WHEREAS, in a time when our world faces so much darkness - division, uncertainty, and struggle - the spirit of Diwali offers a powerful reminder of what this nation and this County promise to every individual: hope, opportunity, and the light of belonging; and

WHEREAS, the Indian American community in Cook County and throughout the Chicago region plays an invaluable role in advancing business, education, innovation, and public service, enriching the social and economic fabric of our county; and

WHEREAS, the **Indian American Business Council of Chicago** continues to build bridges of cultural understanding and economic opportunity, fostering entrepreneurship, collaboration, and civic engagement among Indian Americans and the broader business community; and

WHEREAS, the Council's leadership and membership exemplify the enduring message of Diwali - illuminating pathways of partnership and progress between communities, empowering emerging leaders, and strengthening the bonds of shared prosperity and goodwill; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes that celebrating Diwali not only honors a sacred tradition but also affirms our collective commitment to diversity, inclusion, and unity across all cultures and faiths; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, **Toni Preckwinkle**, and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of **Commissioner Tara Stamps of the 1st District**, do hereby recognize and honor the celebration of **Diwali**, and commend the **Indian American Business Council of Chicago** for its outstanding leadership and contributions to the people of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board extends its heartfelt wishes for a joyous Diwali filled with peace, prosperity, and light for all residents and families across Cook County; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the **Indian American Business Council of Chicago** as a token of appreciation for their commitment to community, commerce, and cultural unity.

[26-0010](#)

Sponsored by: TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLION MAN MARCH

"We must atone, we must reconcile, and we must take responsibility for ourselves and our communities. Only then can we build the kind of world our children deserve."

- The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan

WHEREAS, October 16, 2025, marks the 30th Anniversary of the historic *Million Man March*, a monumental gathering that took place on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., drawing hundreds of thousands of Black men from across the nation in an unprecedented demonstration of unity, self-determination, and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, the *Million Man March* was convened under the divine guidance and visionary leadership

of the *Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan*, the National Representative of the *Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad* and the *Nation of Islam*, who called upon Black men to atone, reconcile, and take responsibility for rebuilding themselves, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the *Nation of Islam*, headquartered in the City of Chicago, in the County of Cook, played an essential and foundational role in organizing the March, mobilizing millions across faith traditions, political ideologies, and socioeconomic backgrounds to stand in radical solidarity for justice, peace, and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the *Million Man March* inspired a national movement for social, moral, and economic transformation-encouraging voter registration drives, fatherhood initiatives, small business development, and community empowerment projects throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, thirty years later, the spirit and legacy of the *Million Man March* continue to echo through new generations of activists, faith leaders, educators, and public servants who are committed to advancing equity, ending systemic racism, and creating a future rooted in collective responsibility and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, Chicago-the birthplace and home of the *Nation of Islam* and the *Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan*-remains a cornerstone of this ongoing struggle for liberation and moral leadership, symbolizing the enduring strength and vision that emerged from that historic day in 1995; and

WHEREAS, amid a political climate marked by division, polarization, and continued assaults on civil and human rights, the message of unity, accountability, and love for community that defined the *Million Man March* is more necessary than ever; and

WHEREAS, the *Cook County Board of Commissioners*, under the leadership of *Board President Toni Preckwinkle*, and on behalf of *Commissioner Tara Stamps* of the *1st District of Cook County*, proudly recognizes the indelible impact of the *Million Man March* and the enduring contributions of the *Nation of Islam* and the *Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan* to the moral and social progress of our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the *President of the Board of Commissioners* and the *Cook County Board of Commissioners* do hereby honor the *30th Anniversary of the Million Man March* and extend their deepest appreciation to the *Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan* and the *Nation of Islam* for their vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the upliftment of Black men, families, and communities across the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the *Nation of Islam* and the *Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan* as a testament to their historic role in shaping the moral and social conscience of our time.

[26-0389](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING HARRY JONGSMA ON HIS OUTSTANDING CAREER AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, Harry Jongsma was born in 1936 in Hammond, Indiana and spent his early childhood in Munster, Indiana, before his family moved to what is now Lynwood, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jongsma attended Sandridge School and later Bloom High School where he was actively involved in 4H and Future Farmers of America; and

WHEREAS, from an early age, Harry's life revolved around the Lynwood community a commitment that would continue throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Harry married Joyce Johnson. They spent a brief period working on his uncle's farm in Lowell, Indiana, before returning to the family farm in Lynwood, and in late 1956, Harry began his career at the Ford Motor Company as a tool and die maker; and

WHEREAS, Harry and Joyce had four children while living on the family farm along Glenwood-Dyer Rd., and in 1963 they purchased his father-in-law's trailer park and twenty acres along Lincoln Highway, where they lived until 1986; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, fire partially destroyed the family home. Harry joined with twenty other community members to explore the formation of the Lynwood Volunteer Fire Department. Their efforts succeeded, and Harry went on to serve as a lieutenant with the department for twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Harry's family was deeply involved in the Sandridge School community. All four of Harry's children graduated from there and in 1978 he had the honor of personally handing his youngest child a diploma as a school board member, where he served for 20 years and was president for many of those years; and

WHEREAS, after 17 years with Ford, Harry left the company in 1973 as a general foreman to focus on developing his own business. He expanded the original 33-lot trailer park into Linway Estates Mobile Home Park, a 40-acre development with 230 lots; and

WHEREAS, both the family farm and Linway Estates became part of the Lincoln-Lansing Drainage District, and in the 1980's, Harry was appointed as a Commissioner of the District, a role he continues to hold today; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Harry became a certified Illinois EPA Responsible Water Operator and remains active in that capacity; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong member and servant of his community, Harry has also been a dedicated member of First Reformed Church (now First PCA) in Lansing, Illinois throughout his life;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the residents of Cook County, hereby commends and honors Harry Jongsma for his remarkable career and outstanding contributions to the community; and

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