



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Minutes of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

10:45 AM

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

Issued on: 12/11/2025

ATTENDANCE

Present: Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

Excused Absence: Lowry (1)

A motion was made by Commissioner Stamps, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to allow for remote participation in meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Miller, Morita, K. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (12)

Absent: Gainer, McCaskill, Moore and S. Morrison (4)

Excused Absence: Lowry (1)

Chairman Britton asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No Public Speakers

[26-0386](#)

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 11/19/2025

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 26-0386. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, K. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Gainer, Lowry, Moore and S. Morrison (4)

Excused Absence: Lowry (1)

[25-4447](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AIR TRAVEL WORKERS IMPACTED BY THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

WHEREAS, the United States federal government shut down on October 1, 2025, when lawmakers failed to pass new funding bills; and

WHEREAS, once the shutdown began, programs and services were halted and federal workers across the nation faced furloughs or working without pay, including those working as air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agents; and

WHEREAS, federal workers already recently experienced massive upheaval due to cuts from President Donald Trump's Department of Government Efficiency earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2024 American Community Survey, federal employees number more than 153,000 in Illinois alone with more than 33,000 federal employees in the City of Chicago and 58,545 across Cook County; and

WHEREAS, there are 77 airports in Illinois that are publicly owned, open to the public and eligible for federal funding; and

WHEREAS, airports in Illinois provide a number of benefits beyond commercial air travel, including health, welfare, and safety services such as medical transport and evacuation, flight training, law enforcement flights, military exercises, and search-and-rescue operations, all of which contribute directly

to the quality of life of those who live and work in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, safe air travel relies upon the proper management, funding, and employment of TSA agents and air traffic controllers; and

WHEREAS, serious safety issues emerge when the proper funding and staffing that support air travel are abandoned; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Transportation Department has announced that 11,322 FAA employees were to be furloughed after the U.S. federal government officially shut down on the night of September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, air traffic controllers had already been feeling mounting pressure with the FAA about 3,800 controllers short of targeted staffing levels while ongoing mandatory overtime and stagnating wages continued to dampen morale for current controllers; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the government shutdown, air traffic controllers and TSA agents were required to work for six weeks without pay; and

WHEREAS, some air traffic controllers told NPR that, even though they've been able to get loans from their credit unions to cover their expenses for a few paychecks, others have been forced to take on part-time jobs in order to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, there have also been reports of controllers calling out of work due to being unable to pay for childcare or gas; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, the Federal Aviation Administration took the extraordinarily unprecedented step of reducing air traffic by 10% across 40 “high-volume” markets, with flight cuts starting at 4% Friday, 5% Saturday and ramp up to 10% by the next week, in an effort to maintain travel safety as air traffic controllers exhibit signs of strain during the government shutdown; and

WHEREAS, considering the FAA directs more than 44,000 flights daily, the cutback impacted thousands of flights nationwide and gave airlines merely 48 hours to reconfigure their schedules; and

WHEREAS, over 100 flights were canceled at Chicago’s O’Hare and Midway international airports on the first day of flight reductions, while over 7,000 delays were taking place nationally; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,400 flights to, from, or within the US were cancelled on Saturday November 8th with over 6,000 delays; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, November 6, 2025, just one day after the FAA’s directive, a UPS cargo plane crashed shortly after taking off from the Louisville, Kentucky airport Tuesday, leaving a half mile-long debris field and 14 identified dead, including three pilots; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 43 days after the shutdown began, the House voted to pass legislation to reopen the federal government and President Trump signed the bill marking the end to the longest government shutdown in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, despite the end of the government shutdown, the FAA announced Wednesday November 12th that reductions will remain at 6% after air traffic control absences drastically declined ahead of the end of the shutdown; and

WHEREAS, prior to the shutdown, controllers were already consistently working six days a week, up to 10 hours a day on mandatory overtime, with vacations strictly limited; and

WHEREAS, aviation experts warn that air travel in the United States will not immediately return to normal after the federal government reopens, as flight disruptions are expected to linger in the coming days; and

WHEREAS, these continuing delays will place travelers in a difficult situation as 2025 holiday travel is forecast to surpass 2024 levels, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium, with passenger bookings on major US airlines for Thanksgiving up 2.2 percent from last year; and

WHEREAS, as of Thursday, November 13th, nearly 1,000 flights into, within, and out of the U.S. were canceled, according to FlightAware a flight tracking website, and more than 450 flights delayed at airports nationwide - with most disruptions being reported at Chicago O'Hare International Airport; and

WHEREAS, following the disastrous air travel issues of the last several weeks, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation will hold a hearing on November 19th to examine the impact of the government shutdown on aviation safety; and

WHEREAS, it will still take up to two days after the government reopens for air traffic controllers to receive their backpay, while still facing dangerous staffing shortages with Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy noting that 15 to 20 controllers are retiring a day instead of around four retiring a day before the government closure; and

WHEREAS, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation (DOT), Illinois' public-use airports generate \$95.5 billion dollars in total annual economic activity, resulting in 500,000 jobs that can be traced to the aviation industry; and

WHEREAS, IDOT also found that aviation accounts for more than 4.2 percent of Illinois's GDP and nearly five percent of the State's jobs; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is home to both O'Hare and Midway International Airports who, according to

the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA), jointly employ more than 54,000 direct employees; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA), O'Hare ranked as the fourth busiest airport in the United States with over 38,000,000 enplanements in 2024, while Midway ranked at 31st with 10,360,093 enplanements; and

WHEREAS, according to Airports Council International (ACI), O'Hare ranks as ranked 2024's second-busiest airport in the world for aircraft movements and the eighth busiest in the world for passengers; and

WHEREAS, according to IDOT, last year alone over 87.4 million commercial passengers flew to, or through, Illinois airports and Illinois airports saw over 2.5 million operations (takeoff or landing); and

WHEREAS, of those 87.4 million passengers, O'Hare processed more than 80 million, an 8.3% increase over 2023; and

WHEREAS, it remains vital to the safety and wellbeing of all Cook County residents, and residents across the State of Illinois and the United States, that air travel and its workforce be maintained at the necessary funding levels at all times;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby commend all air travel workers within Cook County, Illinois, and nationwide for their continuing dedication to the safety and wellbeing of all travelers across the country in the face of an unprecedentedly long government shutdown; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby call upon the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration to properly staff and pay air travel workers, especially air traffic controllers, so as to actually serve travelers, businesses, and medical teams; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and suitable copies be tendered to President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Attorney General Pam Bondi, U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford, U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, Governor JB Pritzker, Illinois Senate Leader Don Harmon, and Illinois House Speaker Emanuel Welch.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Vice Chairwoman Degnen, to recommend for approval 25-4447. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, Scott, Trevor and Vásquez (12)

Absent: Gainer, McCaskill, S. Morrison and Stamps (4)

Excused Absence: Lowry (1)

[25-4456](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING ALL MUNICIPALITIES TO PASS LEGISLATION TO BAN ICE FROM GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security announced the unprecedented Operation “Midway Blitz”, which began the ongoing militarized immigration enforcement by ICE in and around the City of Chicago without proper due process for the hundreds of those detained; and

WHEREAS, in October 2025, as part of Operation “Midway Blitz” the Trump Administration took unparalleled actions and deployed hundreds of National Guard troops, including 300 from Illinois and 400 from Texas, for an initial period of two months; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2025, following these unprecedented attacks from ICE upon communities across Cook County and the unauthorized use of County resources, property, or personnel to facilitate civil immigration enforcement actions, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle signed Executive Order #2025-1; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order #2025-1 prohibits the use of County owned property, resources, and personnel for civil immigration enforcement activities and prevents ICE from using County owned property and resources for civil immigration enforcement actions including staging and debriefing from operations; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2025, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson signed Executive Order No. 2025-8, “Prohibiting the Use of City Parking Lots, Vacant Lots, and Garages for Civil Immigration Enforcement Staging Areas, Processing Locations, or Operations Bases”; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 2025-8 created clear mechanisms to prohibit federal immigration agents from using any City-owned property in their ongoing operations in Chicago and directs City employees immediately report any attempted use of City property for immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2025, Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans issued General Administrative Order No. 2025-10, “Common Law Privilege Against Civil Arrests for People Attending Court”; and

WHEREAS, General Administrative Order No. 2025-10 bans federal immigration agents from arresting people around local courthouses without a warrant; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2025, the Wheeling Village Board approved similar legislation with Resolution No. 25-161 “Resolution Prohibiting the Use of Village Parking Lots, Vacant Lots, and Garages for Civil Immigration Enforcement Staging Areas, Processing Locations, or Operations Bases,” was adopted and took effect immediately; and

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2025, the Evanston City Council also passed similar legislation with Resolution 93-R-25 “Prohibiting the Use of City of Evanston Property for Federal Civil Immigration Enforcement Operations and Providing Direction on Implementation of the Welcoming City Ordinance”; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2025, the Arlington Heights Village Board unanimously voted to ban immigration enforcement officials from using municipal property; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance, pending a final vote Dec. 1, would prohibit immigration agents from using any village-owned property, facilities or resources for the purpose of conducting civil enforcement operations, including municipal parking areas that have spaces normally open to the public, and would also include areas already closed off to the public at large, such as a parking lot behind the police station; and

WHEREAS, these resolutions, ordinances, executive orders, and general administrative orders are an exemplary example of Cook County and local governances’ dedication to preserving the rights of all across our communities and ensuring that all have the ability to work, study, and live without fear of having their physical or legal safety assaulted; and

WHEREAS, now more than ever, it is vital that leaders of all municipalities across Cook County and Illinois come together and commit to upholding the human dignity of all of our residents, regardless of immigration status; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby emphatically encourage all local governing bodies within Cook County, and across the State of Illinois, to pass similar ordinances and measures to ban ICE agents from using government-owned property, facilities, or resources for the purpose of conducting civil enforcement operations.

A motion was made by Commissioner K. Morrison, seconded by Vice Chairwoman Degnen, to recommend for approval 25-4456. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Miller, Morita, K. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (12)

Absent: Gainer, McCaskill, Moore and S. Morrison (4)

Excused Absence: Lowry (1)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Miller, Morita, K. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (12)

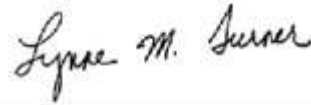
Absent: Gainer, McCaskill, Moore and S. Morrison (4)

Excused Absence: Lowry (1)

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman



Secretary

A complete record of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>.