



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Monday, July 22, 2024

2:30 PM

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

Issued on: 7/15/2024

NOTICE AND AGENDA

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County at the date, time and location listed above to consider the following:

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have registered to speak, with the Secretary, 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live from the County Board Room at 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, IL or be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each virtual speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor Conference Room C, Chicago, IL. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

[24-4118](#)

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 06/12/2024

[24-3685](#)

Presented by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Marvis Barnes

Position: Member

Department/Board/Commission: Cook County Board of Ethics

Effective date: 7/25/2024

Expiration date: 7/25/2028

Legislative History : 6/13/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta

[24-3686](#)

Presented by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Charles Isaacs

Position: Member

Department/Board/Commission: Cook County Human Rights Commission

Effective date: 7/25/2024

Expiration date: 7/25/2027

Legislative History : 6/13/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta

[24-3747](#)

Sponsored by: JOSINA MORITA, BILL LOWRY, STANLEY MOORE, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, TARA S. STAMPS, SEAN M. MORRISON, MONICA GORDON, BRIDGET GAINER, DONNA MILLER, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, BRIDGET DEGNEN, KEVIN B. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CALL FOR A HEARING REQUESTING THE COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR TO APPEAR BEFORE THE LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CLASS 2 AND 3 OF THE COUNTY CODE

WHEREAS, The Cook County Assessor is an elected government official who is responsible for establishing fair and accurate property assessments; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Cook County Assessor's Office is to deliver accurate and transparent assessments of all residential and commercial properties; and

WHEREAS, reassessments occur tri-annually by the Cook County Assessor; and

WHEREAS, Class 2 refers to residential property; and

WHEREAS, Class 3 refers to multi-family property; and

WHEREAS, residents of Cook County have expressed concerns regarding Class 2 and Class 3; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Assessor will appear before the Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee of the Cook County Board in July of 2024 to discuss classifications 2 and 3 of real property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Assessor be prepared to discuss recent changes to the definition of the 3-18 category.

Legislative History : 6/13/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta

[24-3612](#)

Sponsored by: ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REVISE THE U.S. TAX CODE FOR THE BENEFIT OF PUERTO RICO

WHEREAS, Since 2012, tax incentives have been provided to investors, primarily mainland Americans, allowing them to pay no taxes on interest, dividends, or capital gains upon relocating to the U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, These tax incentives were initially intended to promote economic growth and investment in Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Despite the influx of investors, there is limited evidence of trickle-down benefits for the broader Puerto Rican economy, as reported by Bloomberg [Levin, J. (2023, September 22). Puerto Rico is being far too generous with rich investors. *Bloomberg*.]; and

WHEREAS, After a decade of these tax incentives, evidence from an Internal Revenue Service investigation indicates misuse of these incentives, leading to growing frustrations among Puerto Ricans due to the apparent favoritism; and

WHEREAS, Such misuse undermines the intent of the tax incentives, potentially displacing local residents and causing significant economic disparities; and

WHEREAS, Tax incentives and the right to return to land should only benefit Puerto Ricans in the diaspora and those who reside in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Cook County President and Board of Commissioners urge the United States Congress to take immediate action to clarify and amend the U.S. tax code to prevent the misuse of Puerto Rican tax incentives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body urges any amendments to the tax code to preserve the original intent of promoting economic growth in Puerto Rico while preventing potential misuse and addressing the negative economic impacts on the local population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body encourages collaboration between federal, state, and local governments, as well as with Puerto Rican authorities, to ensure that tax policies are fair,

transparent, effective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body recommends the implementation of educational campaigns to inform the public about the proper use of tax incentives and the potential consequences of misuse in Puerto Rico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Cook County congressional delegation, the President of the United States of America, and the Governor of Puerto Rico.

Legislative History : 6/13/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta

[24-3615](#)

Sponsored by: ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF THE PUERTO RICO FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN THE CONGRESSIONAL FARM BILL AND THE INCLUSION OF PUERTO RICO IN THE TRANSITION TO SNAP

WHEREAS, The United States of America, as a nation, should be committed to the welfare, prosperity, and resilience of all its territories, including Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico currently imports approximately 85% of its food, leaving it vulnerable to global market fluctuations and potential supply chain disruptions; and

WHEREAS, Strengthening Puerto Rico's local agricultural sector by reprogramming United States Department of Agriculture funds toward purchasing locally grown items will significantly enhance food sovereignty and resilience on the island; and

WHEREAS, Supporting local agriculture in Puerto Rico has the potential to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and encourage entrepreneurship within the agricultural sector. It could also increase commerce between the island and the more than 200,000-strong Illinois Puerto Rican Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, The initiative will promote sustainable agricultural practices and reduce the carbon footprint associated with long-distance food transportation, thereby contributing to global climate change mitigation efforts; and

WHEREAS, Food sovereignty can bolster Puerto Rico's ability to recover from natural disasters, reducing the reliance on federal aid and demonstrating a model for resilience that could be replicated

across the country; and

WHEREAS, Encouraging the production and consumption of locally grown produce can foster the preservation of Puerto Rico's rich culinary traditions, promote healthier eating habits, and enrich our national cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico does not participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and is provided a limited block grant called Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP, or PAN in Spanish).

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, That the Cook County Board President and the Board of Commissioners expresses strong support for the initiative to reprogram non-food stamp USDA funds allocated to Puerto Rico toward purchasing locally grown items in Puerto Rico and do so in a language and culturally competent fashion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body urges the United States Congress to include the Puerto Rico Food Sovereignty Program in its five-year farm bill, as well as the transition of the island from NAP to SNAP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body urges Congress to endorse and implement this initiative in recognition of its potential to foster economic growth, promote sustainability, enhance resilience, and enrich cultural heritage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be sent to the Cook County congressional delegation, the President of the United States, and the Governor of Puerto Rico.

Legislative History : 6/13/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta

[24-3616](#)

Sponsored by: ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE PUERTO RICO STATUS ACT, AND ENDORSING THE PUERTO RICO SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has been under United States jurisdiction since 1898, and it is the property of, but not part, of the United States, and laws passed by Congress apply on the island without the consent nor participation of the residents thereof; and

WHEREAS, The principle of self-determination is a cornerstone of international law, enshrined in the

United Nations Charter, which guarantees all peoples the right to determine their political status freely and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development; and

WHEREAS, The Puerto Rican people have, through various referendums and public expressions, demonstrated a clear desire to address and resolve the island's political status; and

WHEREAS, The Puerto Rico Status Act has been introduced in the United States Congress, raising concerns among many Puerto Ricans and their allies regarding its approach to resolving the island's future political status; and

WHEREAS, The Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act proposes a process for Puerto Ricans to exercise their right to self-determination in a democratic and inclusive manner, offering a platform for Puerto Ricans to decide their future through a convention of elected representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Cook County President and the Board of Commissioners do hereby express strong support for the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body opposes the Puerto Rico Status Act due to concerns over its inadequacy in facilitating a fair and democratic process for the Puerto Rican people to determine their future, given the lack of critical information over status definitions, the controlling language of government operations, transitions, taxes, Puerto Rico's separate Olympic representation, citizenship, and other key matters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body endorses the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act as a constructive approach to enabling the people of Puerto Rico to explore and decide upon their future political status through a democratic and participatory process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body encourages our federal representatives to support legislation and initiatives that align with Puerto Rico's principles of self-determination and democracy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be delivered to members of the Cook County congressional delegation and the President of the United States of America, expressing the sentiment of the Board of Commissioners regarding the future status of Puerto Rico.

Legislative History : 6/13/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta

[24-3617](#)

Sponsored by: ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO END THE BLOCKADE OF CUBA AND FOR THE REMOVAL FROM THE STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM LIST

WHEREAS, Since 1962, the United States government has imposed a strict economic, commercial, and financial embargo on the Republic of Cuba; and

WHEREAS, On December 17, 2014, former U.S. President Barack Obama and former Cuban President Raul Castro executed an agreement to reestablish diplomatic relations and cooperation between the two countries on certain matters of mutual interest. Despite executive decisions by President Obama easing some restrictive regulations, the central portions of the embargo affecting trade and travel continue to be enforced; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, former President Donald Trump's administration reinstated Cuba to the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, reversing former President Barack Obama's 2015 removal from it without providing any reasonable justification for doing so; and

WHEREAS, Complete restoration of trade and travel between the two countries would be of great benefit to both, particularly in the areas of food production, economic opportunities, education, healthcare, tourism, the arts, music, and sports - along with medical and biotechnological research; and

WHEREAS, Cook County would greatly benefit from the restoration of trade with the Republic of Cuba by permitting the export of industrial and agricultural products to this neighboring nation of 11 million people and the importation of Cuban products applicable to the county, such as life-saving medicines Heberprot-p and CIMAvax; and an extreme interest in providing healthcare-related expertise including products and services, and cooperating with Cuban institutions in the development of pharmaceuticals; and

WHEREAS, Businesses and institutions in Cook County and across Illinois have expressed the desire to trade with Cuban counterparts on matters related to biomedical research, technology, and procedures; and

WHEREAS, Under President Joe Biden's administration, some travel restrictions have been partially lifted, but many limitations remain. A complete restoration of travel and trade would greatly benefit both countries. These sanctions, and the threat of secondary sanctions to other nations, continue to inflict daily hardships on the people of Cuba - making it difficult for them to grow their economy, maintain high-quality healthcare, and improve their education system; and

WHEREAS, The embargo has created economic and emotional hardship for families in both Cuba and in the Cuban-American community in the United States and unfairly restricts the ability of Cuban Americans to send financial resources to their relatives in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has been experiencing a historic migration crisis since the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly 500,000 Cubans seeking refuge in the United States between 2021-2023 due to economic hardships associated with U.S. sanctions. This is the most significant mass emigration in Cuba's history, accounting for nearly 5% of the country's population; and

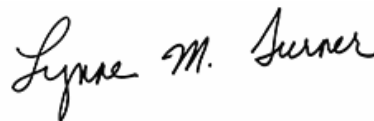
WHEREAS, Cook County residents, institutions, and businesses are also negatively affected by these added restrictions, which violate their right to travel and harm the economic, academic, religious, and cultural opportunities that enhanced trade with Cuba would initiate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Cook County President and the Board of Commissioners hereby find that the embargo and travel restrictions are prejudicial to the interests of the citizens of Cook County, the United States, and Cuba as a violation of the rights of United States citizens and residents to travel to Cuba for educational research and cultural exchange; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the President of the United States of America and Congress are urged to promulgate and pass legislation to end the harmful 62-year-old economic, financial, and commercial embargo, as well as the travel restrictions on U.S. citizens and residents to Cuba, and Cuban citizens to the United States and removal of Cuba from the unsubstantiated placement on the U.S. "state sponsor of terrorism list"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Cook County congressional delegation and the President of the United States of America.

Legislative History : 6/13/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta



Secretary

Chair: Britton
Vice-Chair: Degnen
Members: Committee of the Whole