



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

**2:30 PM**

**Monday, July 22, 2024**

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

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Stamps (1) excused

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

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

1. Michael Sullivan - Clark & Ridge Properties LLC
2. Brad Tietz - Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
3. Amy Masters -BOMA/Chicago
4. Adriann Murawski - Illinois Realtors
5. Aleks Yakovenko - Lemont
6. Alan J. Goldberg - Evanston
7. Scott Farber - JK Realty Management, LL
8. Roman Viere - Greater Austin Development Association
9. Mark Wallace- Ten by Ten to Win
10. Maureen Martino - Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce
11. Kristi DeLaurentiis- South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
12. Paul Johnson- Winnetka
13. Steve Eckardt- Chicago Cuba Coalition
14. Kathy Wennerstrum- Western Springs
15. Juan M. Calderon Cuza- The Puerto Rican Cultural Center
16. Jose E. Lopez- The Puerto Rican Cultural Center
17. Federico DeJesus- Puerto Rican Cultural Center
18. George Blakemore- citizen
19. Charles Serrano- Atlantis Planning

**24-4118**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

**A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to approve 24-4118. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Stamps (1)

**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

**A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Gordon, to recommend for approval 24-3685. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Stamps (1)

**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

**A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Trevor, to recommend for approval 24-3686. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)  
**Absent:** Stamps (1)

**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.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Morita, seconded by Vice Chairwoman Degnen, to recommend for approval 24-3747. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Stamps (1)

**24-3612**

**Sponsored by:** ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and FRANK J. AGUILAR, 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.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Quezada, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to recommend for approval 24-3612. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Stamps (1)

**24-3615**

**Sponsored by:** ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and FRANK J. AGUILAR, 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.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Quezada, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to recommend for approval 24-3615. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Stamps (1)

**24-3616**

**Sponsored by:** ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and FRANK J. AGUILAR, 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.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Quezada, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to recommend for approval 24-3616. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Stamps (1)

**24-3617**

**Sponsored by:** ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS, FRANK J. AGUILAR and MONICA GORDON, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO END THE ~~BLOCKADE~~ EMBARGO 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.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Quezada, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to defer 24-3617. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Stamps (1)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner K. Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Trevor, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Britton, Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Stamps (1)

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman



Secretary

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