



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

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

10:45 AM

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

Issued on: 6/4/2025

ATTENDANCE

Present: Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

Remote Participation

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

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

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

Vice Chairwoman Degnen asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No Public Speakers

[25-3057](#)

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 5/14/2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Vásquez, seconded by Commissioner Stamps, to approve 25-3057. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

[25-1822](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, MAGGIE TREVOR and
BRIDGET DEGNEN, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

**AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE I, SECTION 2-9, GENDER INCLUSIVE
DOCUMENTS AND FORMS**

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Chapter 2 - Administration,
Article I, Section 2-9 - Gender Inclusive Documents and Forms, of the Cook County Code is hereby
amended as Follows:

Sec. 2-9. Gender Inclusive Documents and Forms.

- (a) Instead of sex, forms and documents issued by the county shall ask for an individual's gender. No form issued by the County shall ask an individual's sex unless it is necessary for medical reasons, legitimate government data collection, or required by another law.
- (b) Where selection of gender from predetermined options is required by design of any County form, the gender options on said forms shall include at least multi-select options for "man", "woman", "non-binary", "cisgender", "transgender", "a gender not listed here", and "decline to answer" and may include additional genders. Any time the County asks for an individual's sex, the form or document shall ask for an individual's "sex assigned at birth".
- (c) Where honorifics or titles are made available on any County form, the County shall recognize and make available in any list of predetermined options the gender-neutral honorific "Mx." and an option for an individual to choose to not use an honorific. The County shall also ask for the gender identity of an individual any time that a form or document asks for an individual's sex assigned at birth.
- (d) Where templates are used to create identification cards, business cards, stationery, letterheads, or other personalized documentation, said templates shall include designated space for pronouns. Where selection of pronouns from predetermined options is required by design of any form or template, the pronoun options on said form or template shall include "he/him", "she/her", "they/them", and an option for an individual to fill in their pronouns. The County shall provide a written explanation on any County form or document that requires an individual's sex assigned at birth and gender identity including:
 - (1) ~~Why this data needs to be collected.~~
 - (2) ~~How the data will be used.~~
 - (3) ~~How this data will be kept confidential.~~
- (e) No form issued by the County shall ask an individual's sex unless it is necessary for medical

~~reasons, legitimate government data collection, or required by another law. Where selection of gender identity from predetermined options is required by design of any County form, the gender identity options on said forms shall include at least "man", "woman", "transgender woman/ transfeminine", "transgender man/ transmasculine", "nonbinary/ gender nonconforming", an option to fill in, and "decline to answer" and may include additional gender identities.~~

- (f) The County shall provide a written explanation on any County form or document that requires an individual's sex including:

- (1) Why this data needs to be collected.
- (2) How the data will be used.
- (3) How this data will be kept confidential.

~~Where honorifics or titles are made available on any County form, the County shall recognize and make available in any list of predetermined options the gender neutral honorific "Mx." and an option for an individual to choose to not use an honorific.~~

- (g) Nothing in this ordinance prevents medical providers from asking medically necessary questions about patients' physical attributes. Asking or collecting information about "sex" or "sex at birth," however, shall not be used as a substitute for obtaining information about specific reproductive organs, whether external or internal. Where templates are used to create identification cards, business cards, stationery, letterheads, or other personalized documentation, said templates shall include designated space for pronouns. Where selection of pronouns from predetermined options is required by design of any form or template, the pronoun options on said form or template shall include "he/him", "she/her", "they/them", and an option for an individual to fill in their pronouns.

- (h) Exemptions:

(1) All forms and other documents that are already printed may continue to be used until the stock is exhausted or until June 1, 2025, ~~January 1, 2023~~, -Whichever comes first.

(2) All online forms and documents that do not have the technological capacity to make the updates by the effective date in this section shall detail an explanation in the Implementation Timeline Report and implement these updates as soon as is feasible and no later than June 1, 2025, ~~January 1, 2023~~.

(3) The Cook County Bureau of Technology shall compile an Implementation Timeline Report to present to the Cook County Technology and Innovation Committee within three months of passage of the Ordinance that will determine when online documents and forms can feasibly be updated to comply with this Section. The report should detail an explanation of the forms or documents that cannot be updated by the effective date of this Ordinance and the steps needed to meet the June 1, 2025, ~~January 1, 2023~~, deadline.

Effective date: This ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon adoption.

A motion was made by Commissioner K. Morrison, seconded by Commissioner McCaskill, to recommend for deferral 25-1822. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

[25-2816](#)

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

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Danita Childers

Position: Director - Representative from the Housing Authority of Cook County

Department/Board/Commission: Cook County Land Bank Authority

Effective date: Immediate

Expiration date: Three years from date of approval; 6/12/28 or until a successor is appointed and qualified.

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to recommend for approval 25-2816. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

[25-2819](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BILL LOWRY, SCOTT R. BRITTON and DONNA MILLER, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

AUDITOR

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Chapter 2., Administration, Article IV. Officers and Employees, Division 6. Auditor, Section 2-311 through 2-311.13 of the Cook County Code is hereby amended as Follows

Sec. 2-311. Office created.

There is hereby created the office of County Auditor who shall be appointed by the President of the County Board and ratified by a majority of the members of the County Board.

Sec. 2-311.1. Term of office.

The Auditor shall serve for a term of five years, and removal from office must be for cause and by a vote of a majority of the members of the County Board. In case of a vacancy in the office of Auditor caused by death, resignation, term expiration, or removal from office, the vacancy shall be filled in the manner aforesaid and to the extent possible, the candidate recommended for Auditor shall be made within six months of the vacancy.

Sec. 2-311.2. Qualifications.

The County Auditor must hold at least one of the following credentials:

- (a) Certified Public Accountant, licensed by the State of Illinois;
- (b) Certified Internal Auditor;
- (c) Certified Information System Audit Professional; or
- (d) Certified Government Finance Manager.

Sec. 2-311.3. Compensation.

The County Auditor's compensation shall be fixed by the County Board.

Sec. 2-311.4. Funding.

Sufficient funds shall be proposed and approved to carry out the responsibilities specified herein.

Sec. 2-311.5. Appointment of employees.

The Auditor may with the authority of the President of the County Board and in accordance with the Human Resource Rules and Procedures, employ assistants and employees the number and compensation of whom shall be fixed by the County Board.

Sec. 2-311.6. Professional development.

Sufficient resources shall be made available to the Auditor and staff to ensure appropriate professional development, continuing professional education and compliance with applicable

certification and professional requirements.

Sec. 2-311.7. Powers and duties; charter; scope of audits.

Internal Auditing is an independent and objective activity that is guided by a philosophy of adding value to improve the operations of Cook County government. It assists Cook County in accomplishing its objectives by bringing a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the countywide risk management, control, and governance processes.

The Cook County Auditor's authority and responsibilities are established by this Section. ~~The Office of the President will have direct supervision and management oversight of the Auditor. The Auditor will report functionally and administratively to the President and the County Board. Administrative reporting shall not interfere with the Auditor's objective and impartial judgment on all issues associated with conducting the engagement and reporting on the work. Administrative reporting includes but is not limited to the following: status of audit schedule; department operations; status of corrective action. The County Auditor shall have unrestricted access to communicate and interact directly with the Audit Committee Chair without management present. The County Auditor is given authority to implement, and document safeguards the County Auditor deems necessary to identify and reduce threats to independence. The County Auditor shall report to the County Board at the end of each fiscal year, regarding the independence and effectiveness of the Office of the County Auditor.~~

The Auditor shall have authority to conduct financial, management and performance audits of all Cook County departments, offices, boards, activities, agencies and programs and in any government entity that is funded in whole or in part by the County pursuant to the County's annual appropriation bill in order to independently and objectively determine whether:

(a) Activities and programs being implemented have been authorized by government Charter or Code, state or provincial law or applicable federal law or regulations and are being conducted and funds expended in compliance with applicable laws;

(b) The department, office, or agency is acquiring, managing, protecting, and using its resources, including public funds, personnel, property, equipment, and space, economically, efficiently, and effectively and in a manner consistent with the objectives intended by the authorizing entity or enabling legislation;

(c) The entity, programs, activities, functions, contracts, grants management, or policies are effective, including the identification of any causes of inefficiencies or uneconomical practices;

(d) The desired result or benefits are being achieved;

(e) Financial and other reports are being provided that disclose fairly, accurately, and fully all information required by law, to ascertain the nature and scope of programs and activities, and to establish a proper basis for evaluating the programs and activities including the collection of, accounting for, and depositing of, revenues and other resources;

(f) Management has established adequate operating and administrative procedures and practices, systems or accounting internal control systems and internal management controls; and

(g) Indications of fraud, abuse or illegal acts are valid and need further investigation. Any evidence to indicate the occurrence of fraud or illegal acts discovered by the Auditor must be reported to the Independent Inspector General and State's Attorney immediately.

In addition to the foregoing, the Auditor may also perform audits, reviews and special projects as directed by the President or the County Board, including, but not limited to, the auditing of grants, management initiatives, contracts or financial statements.

Sec. 2-311.8. Standards.

Audits shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and the Institute of Internal Audit's Global Internal Audit Standards.

Sec. 2-311.9. Audit schedule.

At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Auditor shall submit an audit schedule to the President, Audit Chair and County Board for referral to the audit committee for review and comment. The schedule shall include the proposed plan, and the rationale for the selections, for auditing departments, offices, boards, activities, subcontractors and agencies for the period. This schedule may be amended after review with the audit committee, but the Auditor shall have final authority to select the audits planned.

Sec. 2-311.10. Access to employees, records and property.

All elected officials, officers and employees of the County and in any government entity that is funded in whole or in part by the County pursuant to the County's annual appropriation bill shall furnish the Auditor unrestricted access to employees, information and records (including electronic data) within their custody regarding powers, duties, activities, organization, property, financial transactions, contracts and methods of business required to conduct an audit or otherwise perform audit duties. In addition, they shall provide access for the Auditor to inspect all property, equipment and facilities within their custody. Further, all contracts with outside contractors and subcontractors shall contain a "right-to-audit" clause and provide for Auditor access to the contractor's employees and to all financial and performance related records, property, and equipment purchased in whole or in part with governmental funds.

The Auditor shall report to the County Board any matters which impede the discharge of these duties. In the event that any elected official, officer or employee of the County or in any government entity that is funded in whole or in part by the County pursuant to the County's annual appropriation bill does not provide the requested records, documents, reports and property without good cause, the County Board shall seek whatever legal remedies are available.

Sec. 2-311.11. Agency response.

A final draft of the audit report will be forwarded to the audited agency for review and comment regarding factual content prior to its release. The agency must respond in writing, specifying (i) agreement with audit findings and recommendations or reasons for disagreement with findings and/or recommendations; (ii) plans for implementing solutions to issues identified; (iii) a timetable to complete such activities. The response must be forwarded to the Auditor within 15 working days. The Auditor will include the agency's response in the report. If no response is received, the Auditor will note that fact in the transmittal letter and will release the audit report.

Sec. 2-311.12. Audit reports.

The Auditor shall submit all audit reports prepared pursuant to this Section simultaneously to the President, Audit Chair and the County Board. Audit reports shall be submitted within 45 days of completion.

All audit reports, written audit comments, recommendations, and responses resulting from the duties under this Section are public documents and will be made available for public inspection subject to any legally required redactions.

Sec. 2-311.13. Report of irregularities.

If, during an audit, the Auditor becomes aware of abuse or illegal acts or indications of such acts that could affect the government entity, the Auditor shall report the irregularities to Independent Inspector General and/or the audit committee, the President and the County Board.

Sec. 2-311.14. Audit follow-up.

The Auditor shall follow up on audit recommendations as practical to determine if corrective action has been taken. The Auditor ~~may~~ shall request periodic status reports from audited agencies regarding actions taken to address reported deficiencies and audit recommendations. Failure to implement corrective actions for reported deficiencies within the agreed upon timetable shall be reported to the County Board in the Auditor's annual report.

Sec. 2-311.15. Annual Review.

The Auditor Ordinance will be reviewed annually by the County Auditor to determine compliance with audit standards. The County Auditor's findings and recommendations, if any, shall be presented to the President and to the County Board within 60 days following the end of each fiscal year.

Effective date: This ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon adoption.

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve amendment 25-2819. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore, Morita and S. Morrison (5)

[25-2821](#)

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

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Heather A. Steans

Position: Director

Department/Board/Commission: Cook County Health Board of Directors

Effective date: 7/2/2025

Expiration date: 7/2/2029

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to recommend for approval 25-2821. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, McCaskill, Miller, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (10)

Present: K. Morrison (1)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Lowry, Moore, Morita and S. Morrison (6)

[25-2822](#)

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

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Gina Massuda Barnett

Position: Director

Department/Board/Commission: Cook County Health Board of Directors

Effective date: 6/13/2025 - filling the vacancy of Inger Burnett-Zeigler

Expiration date: 10/24/2028

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Vásquez, to recommend for approval 25-2822. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, McCaskill, Miller, K Morrison, Scott, Stamps,
Trevor and Vásquez (11)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Lowry, Moore, Morita and S. Morrison (6)

[25-2848](#)

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

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Kevin Sisk

Position: Member

Department/Board/Commission: Cook County Emergency Telephone System Board

Effective date: 6/12/2025

Expiration date: 6/12/2028

A motion was made by Commissioner McCaskill, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to recommend for approval 25-2848. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K Morrison, Scott,
Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (12)

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore, Morita and S. Morrison (5)

[25-2852](#)

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

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Tim Doherty

Position: Member

Department/Board/Commission: Cook County Emergency Telephone System Board

Effective date: 6/12/2025

Expiration date: 6/12/2028

A motion was made by Commissioner Trevor, seconded by Commissioner Gainer, to recommend for approval 25-2852. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore, Morita and S. Morrison (5)

[25-2855](#)

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

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Jonathan Mark Currin

Position: Trustee

Department/Board/Commission: South Cook County Mosquito Abatement District

Effective date: 6/12/2025

Expiration date: 6/12/2028

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner McCaskill, to recommend for deferral 25-2855. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore, Morita and S. Morrison (5)

[25-2881](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON, MAGGIE TREVOR, TARA S. STAMPS, JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, STANLEY MOORE, FRANK J. AGUILAR and ALMA E. ANAYA, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

DECLARING COOK COUNTY'S EMPHATIC DEFENSE AND RECOGNITION OF ALL RESIDENTS' RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS

WHEREAS, Clause 39 of the Magna Carta, issued in 1215 declared, “No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land”; and

WHEREAS, in the statutory rendition of the Magna Carta in 1354, the term ‘due process’ appeared for the first time with Clause 29 stating that, "No man of what state or condition he be, shall be put out of his lands or tenements nor taken, nor disinherited, nor put to death, without he be brought to answer by due process of law”; and

WHEREAS, the Magna Carta is the bedrock of the U.S. Constitution and established the foundational principles of the rule of law, due process, the protection of individual rights, and served as the model for safeguarding individual liberties and principles that became core tenets of the American legal system; and

WHEREAS, individuals' right to due process in the United States has been established since the ratification of the Constitution in 1791; and

WHEREAS, due process is a fundamental right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution that protects persons against arbitrary government decisions and ensures fairness in legal matters; and

WHEREAS, all residents in the U.S. have the right to due process, meaning a chance to defend their rights and to have a fair hearing; and

WHEREAS, the right to due process as found under the Fifth Amendment states that, “No person shall ... be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law” by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, this right to due process was further extended to the States with the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment, under Section One, which states, “nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law”; and

WHEREAS, when examining the text of these amendments, it is important to highlight the language applies not only to the narrower category of ‘citizens’ but to the broader category of ‘person[s]’; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has continuously upheld the applicability of the right to due process to all residents on United States' soil; and

WHEREAS, in the Court's unanimous ruling in *Mathews v. Diaz*, 426 U.S. 67 (1976) the late Justice John Paul Stevens - a President Gerald Ford appointee - wrote "There are literally millions of aliens within the jurisdiction of the United States. The Fifth Amendment, as well as the Fourteenth Amendment, protects every one of these persons from deprivation of life, liberty, or property without due process of law," and "Even one whose presence in this country is unlawful, involuntary, or transitory is entitled to that constitutional protection"; and

WHEREAS, in *Reno v. Flores*, 507 U.S. 292 (1993), the Supreme Court stated, "It is well established that the Fifth Amendment entitles aliens to due process of law in deportation proceedings"; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2025, President Trump declared that the U.S. was under invasion by the Venezuelan gang 'Tren de Aragua' and invoked the centuries-old Alien Enemies Act of 1798 (AEA); and

WHEREAS, part of the AEA gives the U.S. government authority during wars to arrest and expel non-citizens from enemy countries; and

WHEREAS, the AEA has only been used a total of three times in U.S. History; and

WHEREAS, the AEA was most infamously invoked during World War II as part of the internment of Japanese Americans; and

WHEREAS, in his August 10, 1988, 'Remarks on Signing the Bill Providing Restitution for the Wartime Internment of Japanese American Civilians', former President Ronald Reagan described the use of the AEA as a "grave wrong" and an action "taken without trial, without jury" that was "based solely on race"; and

WHEREAS, under President Trump's current order, Venezuelans as young as 14 years of age could be expelled from the country without any hearing if they are merely accused of being members of the Tren de Aragua gang; and

WHEREAS, American authorities used the Trump administration's order to send 238 Venezuelans from the U.S. to the notorious Terrorism Confinement Center (or the Centro de Confinamiento del Terrorismo, abbreviated, commonly known as CECOT) a maximum-security prison in Tecoluca, El Salvador; and

WHEREAS, these individuals were sent to CECOT without any chance to go before an immigration court or a federal judge; and

WHEREAS, it remains unclear how officials decided these men were part of the gang or if they had any evidence at all, since there weren't any individual hearings or other legal processes; and

WHEREAS, seventy-five percent of the Venezuelans sent to CECOT reportedly have no criminal record and their numbers include a makeup artist seeking asylum in the U.S. because he was targeted for being gay, and a man who had been granted refugee protection in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2025, in their Per Curium reply to the Trump administration's 'Application to Vacate the Orders Issued by The United States District Court for The District of Columbia', the Supreme Court held that before expelling anyone, including non-citizens, under the AEA the U.S. Government must let them defend themselves in court; and

WHEREAS, On April 7, 2025, the Court also unanimously reaffirmed that the fundamental right to due process extends to everyone in America, regardless of their legal status; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration's March 22, 2025, executive order 'Preventing Abuses of the Legal System and the Federal Court' claims that the immigration system is rife with "meritless claims" and "replete with examples of unscrupulous behavior by attorneys and law firms," and directs the Attorney General to impose professional and legal sanctions against attorneys who are legally defending their clients; and

WHEREAS, the reduction or elimination of due process protections sets the stage for more mistakes in its deportation efforts; and

WHEREAS, such as a case has already occurred with immigration authorities acknowledging mistakenly deporting Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran national and father of a disabled U.S. citizen child, to CECOT despite the fact he was granted protected status by an immigration judge in October of 2019 prohibiting the federal government from sending him to El Salvador; and

WHEREAS, in response to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's 'Application to Vacate Injunction Entered by the United States District Court for The District of Maryland', the Supreme Court's order on April 10, 2025, required the federal government to "facilitate and effectuate the return" of Mr. Abrego Garcia; and

WHEREAS, the Court went on to state that "the order properly requires the government to 'facilitate' Abrego Garcia's release from custody in El Salvador and to ensure that his case is handled as it would have been had he not been improperly sent to El Salvador"; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2025, in an interview with ABC News' Terry Moran, President Trump confirmed that he "could" bring Mr. Abrego Garcia back from El Salvador but stated that he "won't"; and

WHEREAS, as of May 14, 2025, Mr. Abrego Garcia's return has neither been effectuated nor facilitated; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has three branches - legislative, executive, and judicial - to ensure no single entity gains excessive power; and

WHEREAS, this separation of powers, along with a system of checks and balances, is designed to prevent tyranny and protect individual liberties; and

WHEREAS, the historical precedent of the President of the United States failing to abide by this three-branch system in refusing to obey orders from the Supreme Court is one marred in blood, including President Andrew Jackson's disregard for the Court's ruling in *Worcester v. Georgia*, 31 U.S. 515 (1832) that the Cherokee Nation was independent and entitled to its land, a disregard that led to their forced relocation on the Trail of Tears that resulted in the deaths of over 4,000 Cherokee; and

WHEREAS, the refusal of the President of the United States to abide by Supreme Court orders undermines the very principle of judicial independence and demonstrates a complete disregard for the rule of law in this country; and

WHEREAS, in response to questions on these matters on due process, President Trump stated on May 5, 2025, that, "The courts have all of a sudden, out of nowhere, they've said maybe you're going to have to have trials. We're going to have five million trials?"; and

WHEREAS, also on May 5, 2025, White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller incorrectly stated on X (formally known as Twitter) that "the right of 'due process' is to protect citizens from their government. Not to protect foreign trespassers from removal"; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2025, White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller also told reporters that, "The Constitution is clear and that, of course, is the supreme law of the land, that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus could be suspended in time of invasion...So that's an option we're actively looking at"; and

WHEREAS, a writ of habeas corpus is a legal procedure in federal courts to determine if a state's detention of a prisoner is valid and is used to bring a prisoner or other detainee before the court to determine if the person's imprisonment or detention is lawful; and

WHEREAS, individuals' right to habeas corpus is found under Article One, Section 9 of the US Constitution which states that "The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it"; and

WHEREAS, it is important to emphasize that Section 9's language does not allow the suspension of habeas corpus solely because an "invasion" is declared by the executive branch, but rather the language states in Article I that it can be suspended only "in cases of rebellion or invasion [when] the public safety may require it"; and

WHEREAS, it should be further emphasized that Article One articulates that all powers under the Article, including Section 9, shall be "vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives" and not in the executive branch; and

WHEREAS, the right to a writ of habeas corpus has been further strengthened in the modern context with the Supreme Court's ruling in *Boumediene v. Bush*, 553 U.S. 723 (2008), where former Justice Anthony Kennedy's - a President Reagan appointee - opinion for the majority held that the right extended to non-citizens held at Guantánamo; and

WHEREAS, in *Harris v. Nelson*, 394 U.S. 286 (1969) the Supreme Court described habeas corpus as "the fundamental instrument for safeguarding individual freedom against arbitrary and lawless state action," and that, "The very nature of the writ demands that it be administered with the initiative and flexibility essential to ensure that miscarriages of justice within its reach are surfaced and corrected"; and

WHEREAS, the errors and incorrect statements made by the Trump administration and its officials on these issues of due process and habeas corpus can have life or death consequences, and are the clear inevitable result of prioritizing speed over individuals' rights to a fair process; and

WHEREAS, such violations and overt disregards of the well-established right to due process for all upon United States soil puts into jeopardy the physical and legal safety of all who reside here; and

WHEREAS, the founders of the United States built the nation on the absolute rejection of an unlimited monarchy where one's rights depended upon the opinion of a singular king; and

WHEREAS, without the fervent, continuous, and stalwart defense of the right to due process for all in the United States, then all within the country, citizens or non-citizens alike, face the potential of unjust deprivation of life, liberty, and property without any ability to offer evidence, explanation, or defense to the contrary; and

WHEREAS, it remains vital that we continue to uplift the centuries old legacy of fairness and equality that the United States was founded on; and

WHEREAS, now more than ever it is crucial that we in Cook County condemn any and all actors who seek to deny individuals' well-established rights to due process under the Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim its undying support and protection of all of its residents' rights to due process and habeas corpus in all legal avenues so prescribed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and suitable copies be tendered to the President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, 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 K. Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Vásquez, to

recommend for approval 25-2881. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore, Morita and S. Morrison (5)

[25-2890](#)

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

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Shonda DeVasher-Williams

Position: Trustee

Department/Board/Commission: South Cook County Mosquito Abatement District

Effective date: 6/12/2025

Expiration date: 6/12/2028

A motion was made by Commissioner Vásquez, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to recommend for approval 25-2890. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Degnen, Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (11)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Lowry, Moore, Morita and S. Morrison (6)

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget M. Degnen

Vice Chairwoman

Lynae M. Turner

Secretary

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