



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

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

BOARD NOTICE AND AGENDA

Thursday, July 18, 2024, 9:30 AM

Special Meeting in Memory of Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer

CALL TO ORDER**INVOCATION****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****CALL OF MEETING READ INTO RECORD****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 D, 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.

PRESIDENT

[24-4096](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF COMMISSIONER DENNIS DEER**

WHEREAS, Dennis Deer, born on August 7, 1972, and raised in the North Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago, dedicated his life to public service and the betterment of his community; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Deer pursued his education at Collins High School in Chicago, and subsequently at Jackson State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary/Special Education and a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Psychology; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Deer became interested in studying behavioral health after witnessing a murder at the age of 10 and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, leading him to later obtain his Ph.D. in Christian Psychology from Agape Theological Institute. He also earned certifications as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, forensic counselor, rehabilitation counselor, corrective thinking therapist, and Illinois law enforcement standards and training instructor; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Deer served as the President of County Commissioner Robert Steele's fundraising committee, considering Commissioner Steele a mentor, and following Steele's passing in 2017, he ran for and won the primary and the general election unopposed on November 6, 2018, to serve as the Cook County Commissioner for the 2nd District; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Deer faithfully represented the 2nd District, including portions of the Loop, Near West Side, Near South Side, North Lawndale, Englewood, and Washington Park community areas, from 2017 until his untimely passing on June 23, 2024; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Commissioner Deer served on multiple committees of both the Board of Commissioners and the Forest Preserve District Board, contributing significantly to the governance and improvement of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Deer was initially appointed to the Cook County Health Board (CCB) in 2017 to fill a partial term and continued to be re-elected to the seat to date; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed Chair of the County Board's Health and Hospitals Committee in December 2018; pursuant to County ordinance, that committee chair shall also serve as a Director on the Cook County Health Board, so his Cook County Health Board membership began in December 2018; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Deer was elected Vice Chair of the Cook County Health Board in 2021, and has been re-elected to that position each year since; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as Cook County Health Board Vice Chair since 2021, he has served as a member of the Audit and Compliance Committee and Finance Committee for the entirety of his time on the Cook County Health Board; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Deer was the Vice Chair of the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Finance Committee and was a strong supporter of the 2022 referendum to secure additional resources for the

Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Deer placed an emphasis on the health and wellness benefits that the Forest Preserves of Cook County offered residents, and was appointed by President Preckwinkle to the board of NeighborSpace, which preserves gardens on behalf of community groups in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Deer was a strong supporter of the Forest Preserves of Cook County and had an affinity for the Brookfield Zoo and Chicago Botanic Garden, consistently raising awareness for the Chicago Botanic Garden's Farm on Ogden, which was located across the street from his district office; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Deer was a devoted husband to his wife, Barbara, and a loving father to their three (3) children; Kannan, Kaleb, and Trinity and a respected member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity; and

WHEREAS, despite facing significant health challenges, including a diagnosis of COVID-19 in 2022, polymyositis, interstitial lung disease, and undergoing a double lung transplant, Commissioner Deer remained committed to his duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes and deeply appreciates the dedication, leadership, and contributions of Dennis Deer to the community and his unwavering commitment to public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Commissioner Dennis Deer, expressing our profound gratitude for his years of service and dedication to the residents of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Dennis Deer as an expression of our deepest sympathy and to honor his memory and contributions to Cook County.

RESOLUTION IS MOVED AND SECONDED FOR APPROVAL

RESOLUTION IS READ INTO THE RECORD

REMEMBRANCES

STANDING VOTE

ADJOURNMENT