

Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL



Journal of Proceedings

Thursday, July 18, 2024

9:30 AM

Special Meeting in Memory of Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer

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 JOEL QUEZADA
TARA S. STAMPS
MAGGIE TREVOR

**CEDRIC GILES
COUNTY CLERK**

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Board of Commissioners

July 18, 2024

Board met pursuant to the following call:

The Honorable Cedric Giles
Cook County Clerk
69 West Washington Street, Fifth Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE for July 18, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.
to be held at 118 N. Clark Street, Cook County Board Room 567, Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Clerk Giles:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County to be convened on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at the hour of 9:30 a.m. in the County Board Room, 118 N. Clark Street, Room 567, Chicago, Illinois 60602. The Special Meeting will be an in-person meeting for the County Board and will be able to be viewed by the public at cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings.

At said meeting, the following Item requiring Board Action will be heard.

- Item No. 24-4096 In Memory of County Commissioner Dennis Deer

Instructions for how to attend this meeting and participate in public comment will be provided on the Cook County webpage at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.asp> The proceedings will be able to be viewed at cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings on Thursday, July 18, 2024, starting at 9:30 a.m. Written public comment or live (virtual) testimony on any of the items listed on the Agenda will be accepted at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MKSB6KC>. Written testimony will also be accepted at cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. Written comments prior to the start of the Special Board meeting will be posted at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.asp>. Three minutes per comment will be allowed.

On or around 8:45 a.m. Central Time on the morning of the meeting, a Microsoft Teams link and phone number to join the meeting will be sent to all live (virtual) speakers. You may not log into the meeting until the scheduled meeting time. You may not forward the link to anyone. To reduce the chance of meeting disruption, MEETING PARTICIPANTS WHO FORWARD LINKS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE MEETING, AS WILL THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE FORWARDED LINK. Speaking order is to be determined by the Chair. You will have three (3) minutes to make your statement. Once your statement is completed, you 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>

Copies of the Agenda for the July 18, 2024 Special Board Meeting of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and items to be considered at this meeting will be made available electronically on the Cook County website at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.asp>

Please issue the Notice of this Special Meeting and Agenda as required by law.

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Board of Commissioners

July 18, 2024

Very truly yours,
Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Board President

COPY OF LETTER SENT TO ALL COMMISSIONERS

President and Members
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, has directed me to call a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at the hour of 9:30 a.m. the Special Meeting will be an in-person meeting for the County Board and will be able to be viewed by the public at [cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings](https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings).

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Very truly yours,

Cedric Giles
County Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE

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Very truly yours,

CEDRIC GILES, Cook County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of the Commissioners of Cook County, Illinois

OFFICIAL RECORD

President Preckwinkle in the chair.

CALL TO ORDER

At 9:30 A.M., being the hour appointed for the meeting, the President called the Board to order.

QUORUM

County Clerk Cedric Giles called the roll of members and there was found to be a quorum present.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Commissioners Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, Quezada, Stamps, and Trevor (13)

Absent: Commissioner Degnen, Morita, and S. Morrison (3)

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

In accordance with Cook County Code Section 2-102(i) Remote Participation in Meetings, a motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to allow for remote participation in meeting. The vote of yeas and nays being as follows:

Yeas: Commissioners Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, Quezada, Stamps, and Trevor (13)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: Commissioner Degnen, Morita, and S. Morrison (3)

The motion carried.

INVOCATION

Rev. Jonathan Brooks, Lead Pastor at Lawndale Christian Community Church Chicago, IL gave the invocation.

REMEMBERANCES

President Preckwinkle called upon the following speakers:

1. Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, State of Illinois
2. Mayor Brandon Johnson, City of Chicago
3. Chief Judge Timothy Evans, Cook County
4. Donald Dew, CEO/President Habilitative Systems, Inc.

5. Sheila McNary, Advanced Care Services
6. Louis Raymond, C&J Strategies
7. Mae Whiteside, CKL Engineers, LLC
8. Hill Hammock, Former Chair of the Board, Cook County Health Board of Directors
9. Bob Reiter, Finance Chairman, Cook County Health Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

**24-4096
RESOLUTION**

Sponsored by

**THE HONORABLE TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT, FRANK J. AGUILAR,
ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN,
BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA M. GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER,
STANLEY S. MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON,
ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS AND MAGGIE TREVOR,
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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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.

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July 18, 2024

Approved and adopted this 18th of July 2024

TONI PRECKWINKLE, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Attest: CEDRIC GILES, County Clerk

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, that the Resolution be approved. President Preckwinkle called for a rising vote. The votes of yeas and nays being as follows:

Yeas: Commissioners Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, Quezada, Stamps, and Trevor (13)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: Commissioner Degnen, Morita, and S. Morrison (3)

The motion carried and the Resolution is APPROVED and ADOPTED.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, that the meeting do now adjourn to meet again at the same time and same place on July 25, 2024, in accordance with County Board Resolution 23-5225.

The motion prevailed and the meeting stood adjourned.



COUNTY CLERK