



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Criminal Justice Committee**

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

12:15 PM

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

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 submitted in writing, their name, address, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized public speakers shall 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 be germane to a specific item(s) on the meeting agenda, and the testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. 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.

**16-1425
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 1/12/2016

16-1023

Sponsored by: PETER N. SILVESTRI and LUIS ARROYO JR, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**TO REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COOK COUNTY
IN ITS REPORT REGARDING PRE-TRIAL SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, the issue of pre-trial processes is of paramount importance to the criminal justice system of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters of Cook County commissioned a study to evaluate the effectiveness and fairness of the pre-trial operation of the County’s criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the League’s study, spanning more than eighteen months, coincided with nationwide public pressure to reduce the number of individuals in jail and in prison and to investigate alternatives to incarceration; and

WHEREAS, a number of issues have arisen with respect to bond court, pre-trial assessment, diversion programs, mental illness, and collaboration among public officials, their offices, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the study included interviews with a wide variety of people and uncovered consensus on a range of issues impacting the pre-trial system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pre-Trial Systems Report of the Criminal Justice Interest Group, League of Women Voters of Cook County, be referred to the Criminal Justice Committee of the Cook County Board of Commissioners for analysis and discussion.

Legislative History:1/13/16 Board of Commissioners referred to the Criminal Justice Committee

16-1065

Sponsored by: JESÚS G. GARCÍA, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUBSTITUTE TO ITEM 16-1065

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE DIGNIFIED TREATMENT OF CENTRAL AMERICAN ASYLUM SEEKERS

WHEREAS, Cook County is a “Fair and Equal County for Immigrants,” as defined in 07-R-240; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is home to over one million immigrants with residents from Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa; and

WHEREAS, Cook County has benefitted culturally, socially and economically from the diversity of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have some of the world’s highest rates of violence, causing a refugee crisis; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of Central Americans have been displaced by endemic violence, the majority of whom are women and children; and

WHEREAS, Violence against women and children is pervasive and the Central American governments have failed to protect their citizens; and

WHEREAS, The number of asylum applications from Central American countries to neighboring countries has increased thirteen fold since 2008; and

WHEREAS, Families and Children, most without access to legal counsel have received removal orders without having meaningful opportunities to explain their need for legal protection to an immigration judge; and

WHEREAS, Many of these families and children may be eligible for immigration reprieve if they are allowed to present their cases to the Board of Immigration Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began conducting raids during the 2016 New Year's holiday targeting Central American families fleeing violence and children as young as four-years-old; and

WHEREAS, Central American asylum seekers should be treated with the dignity, care and compassion that every person deserves; and

WHEREAS, immigration raids perpetuate pervasive fear within Cook County, sow distrust of local law enforcement and raise concerns regarding civil rights violations; and

WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) recent raids threatens the health of the immigrant community and all Cook County residents by creating an atmosphere of fear and distrust of governmental authority; and

WHEREAS, These raids violate basic human rights and threaten the health of all Cook County Residents in addition to immigrant communities by disrupting clinical, public health and public safety services as recognized by the American Public Health Association; and

WHEREAS, ICE raids create unnecessary stress and trauma and re-enforce a policy of structural racism that isolates immigrants; and


WHEREAS, Cook County Ordinance 11-O-73 sets out a policy outlining the proper boundaries of the relationship between Cook County personnel and officials and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board Of Commissioners hereby reaffirm its commitment to remain a safe place for residents of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby denounces such raids and urges local law enforcement to abide by existing laws governing interaction with ICE including Cook County Ordinance 11-O-73.

Legislative History: 1/13/16 Board of Commissioners accepted as substituted

Legislative History: 1/13/16 Board of Commissioners referred to the Criminal Justice Committee


Secretary

Chairman: Garcia
Vice-Chairman: Moore
Members: Committee of the Whole