



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

**Tuesday, February 9, 2016**

**12:15 PM**

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

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Chairman García, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, Gainer, Goslin, Morrison, Murphy, Schneider, Silvestri, Steele, Suffredin and Tobolski (14)

**Absent:** Vice Chairman Moore, Commissioners Fritchey and Sims (3)

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

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

1. George Blakemore, No Show
2. Jan Goldberg, Co-Chair Criminal Justice Interest Group
3. Written Response provided by Chief Judge Tim Evans re: item 16-1023
4. Written Report - League of Women's Voters Criminal Justice- entered into the record
5. Mark Flemming – National Immigrant Justice Center
6. Neusa Gaytan – Mujeres Latinas en Accion

**16-1425**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

**A motion was made by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Silvestri, that this Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** Chairman García, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, Gainer, Goslin, Morrison, Murphy, Schneider, Silvestri, Steele, Suffredin and Tobolski (14)

**Absent:** Vice Chairman Moore, Commissioners Fritchey and Sims (3)

## 16-1023

**Sponsored by:** PETER N. SILVESTRI and LUIS ARROYO JR, County Commissioners, TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, RICHARD R. BOYKIN, JERRY BUTLER, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, GREGG GOSLIN, SEAN M. MORRISON, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, ROBERT STEELE, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, 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.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, that this Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** Chairman García, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, Gainer, Goslin, Morrison, Murphy, Schneider, Silvestri, Steele, Suffredin and Tobolski (14)

**Absent:** Vice Chairman Moore, Commissioners Fritchey and Sims (3)

## 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.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, that this Resolution be recommended for approval as substituted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** Chairman García, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Gainer, Goslin, Morrison, Murphy, Steele, Suffredin and Tobolski (11)

**Nay:** Commissioners Daley, Schneider, Silvestri (3)

**Absent:** Vice Chairman Moore, Commissioners Fritchey and Sims (3)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Silvestri to adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Chairman



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Secretary

\*A video recording of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>